



Prince George's County, Maryland

Inter-Office Memorandum

Office of Law

LEGISLATIVE COMMENT

DATE: February 21, 2024

TO: Jennifer A. Jenkins, Council Administrator

THRU: Nathaniel Tutt, Committee Director
Government Operations and Fiscal Policy

THRU: Rhonda L. Weaver, County Attorney

FROM: Terry Bell, Associate County Attorney

RE: CB-001-2024

As requested, please find below an estimation of litigation costs relating to legislation. It is roughly estimated that litigation costs could range from: \$250,000 to \$800,000+

Each case is different and factors that could affect this estimate include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Number of parties
- Plaintiff attorney fees and litigation costs, which would likely be owed by the County if the County does not prevail. This would include filing fees, expert costs, deposition costs, possible appeal costs
- Defense litigation costs--same type of items referenced above for Plaintiff costs
- Length of litigation
- Extensiveness of discovery and motions
- Plaintiff damages:
- Defense counsel fees if outside counsel retained. Fees for experienced attorneys could range from \$250 to \$650 per hour (assumed discounted rate for governments)
- Appeals

Jennifer A. Jenkins

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For CB-1, and assuming one Plaintiff, experts will probably be retained by both parties. Discovery period may be more limited than in traditional tort cases. It is assumed no physical injuries, and even if emotional distress claims are raised--these are generally not the focus of discovery or valuation in these types of cases. Generally, more at issue are damage loss related to business or other activity impacted by the law.