

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2014 Legislative Session

Reference

No.: CR-29-2014

Draft No.: 2

Committee: PUBLIC SAFETY AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Date: 6/5/2014

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended 5-0 (In Favor: Council Members Toles, Davis, Harrison, Lehman, and Turner)

This resolution establishes an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy requiring the Purchasing Agent and all departments to take every reasonable effort to reduce the amount and toxicity of solid waste the County's departments and agencies generate, recycle materials recoverable from County operations; and maximize the procurement of recycled, energy efficient, and non-toxic products. Staff gave an overview of the policy which requires departments to purchase items with the highest recovered material content level practicable. County departments are encouraged to give strong consideration to purchasing durable items, items having minimal packaging, and items that are readily recycled when discarded. The policy also addresses toxics and pollution, energy efficiency, landscaping, training, cost, contractors and program evaluation. The Purchasing Agent shall monitor compliance with the policy.

During the work session the resolution was amended as follows:

On page 2, line 8 insert “; and WHEREAS, the procurement of products with nationally and regionally recognized environmentally preferred product labels and certifications such as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Sense, EPA Energy Star, U.S. Department of Energy appliance and equipment energy standards, Green Guard, Green Seal, Forest Stewardship Council, Environmental Product Declarations, U.S. Green Building Council, and Green Globes is an acceptable compliance method under an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy established by the County.”

The Office of Law has reviewed this legislation and finds it to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment.

The enactment of CR-29-2014 may have a negative fiscal impact on the County as some environmentally responsible products/services may exceed the price of alternative

products/services. However, consideration should be given, during the purchasing decision, to the extent by which the environmentally responsible product improves public health, minimizes pollution, and conserves natural resources.