

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2022 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-024-2022

Draft No.: 1

Committee: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Date: 06/06/2022

Action: FAV

REPORT: Favorable 10-0-1: Council Members Hawkins, Burroughs Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison Ivey, Medlock, Streeter, and Turner. Abstained: Taveras

The Prince George's County Council convened on June 6, 2022, to consider CB-024-2022. This legislation was proposed by the Chair at the request of the County Executive. It was originally presented to the County Council on April 5, 2022, then referred to the Committee of the Whole (COW) on April 26th, May 9th, and again on May 31, 2022.

CB-024-2022 would amend the County's Code of Ethics to clarify prohibited conduct and interests related to police officers and fire/emergency medical service employees. The modifications would make clear that police officers and fire/emergency medical service employees are not prohibited from responding in an official capacity to emergencies at businesses or properties in which the employee or a relative has an interest. Additionally, the modifications would clarify that the Code's prohibitions on the use of the prestige of office and the use of County resources do not apply to police officers exercising police authority during outside employment that is otherwise allowed by regulation of the Board of Ethics and approved by the Chief of Police. Finally, the modifications provide necessary clarity on the conduct that is subject to the Code's prohibition on the use of County resources.

As is required by State law, these proposed changes were reviewed and approved by the State Ethics Commission in September 2021. Additionally, the proposed changes were presented to and approved by the Prince George's County Board of Ethics in January 2022.

The Policy Analyst Group does not anticipate a fiscal impact upon the enactment of CB-024-2022.

After discussion, the Prince George's County Council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, voted CB-024-2022 out favorably 10-0-1.