





March 17, 2025

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

TO: Jennifer A. Jenkins  
Council Administrator

Colette R. Gresham, Esq.  
Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: Josh Hamlin   
Director of Budget and Policy Analysis

FROM: David Noto   
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement  
CR-015-2025 Support for Non-Carceral Mental Health Care

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**CR-015-2025** (*Proposed by:* Council Member Oriadha)

Assigned to the Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee

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A RESOLUTION CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR NON-CARCERAL MENTAL HEALTH CARE for the purpose of expressing the Prince George's County Council's Support of Non-Carceral Mental Health Care in the Spirit of the People's Response Act.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**Direct Impact**

*Expenditures:* No anticipated impact on expenditures.

*Revenues:* No anticipated impact on revenues.

## Indirect Impact

No anticipated indirect impact.

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## Legislative Summary:

CR-015-2025<sup>1</sup>, proposed by Council Member Oriadha, and sponsored by Council Members Ivey, Hawkins, Fisher, and Watson, was introduced on February 18, 2025, and referred to the Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee. This resolution seeks to express the County Council's support for non-carceral, community-based solutions that prioritize the rights, dignity, and health of people experiencing mental health challenges that are critical in resolving mental health crises, as highlighted by the People's Response Act.

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## Current Law/Background:

### *Federal law:*

The People's Response Act, H.R. 4194, was introduced in the 117th Congress by then-Representative Cori Bush of Missouri but has yet to become federal law<sup>2</sup>. The People's Response Act would have established multiple grant programs and requirements to promote qualified approaches to community safety, as well as establishing the Division of Community Safety within the Department of Health and Human Services to administer grants for community-based organizations to support qualified approaches to community safety, such as:

- unarmed first responder agencies and 911 diversion programs;
- neighborhood-level interventions, including safe passage to school and violence interruption programs;
- behavioral health treatment, nutrition support, and other public health programs;
- housing security programs; and
- programs for youth and families, survivors of violence, and individuals exiting incarceration or criminal supervision.

The People's Response Act was inspired by section II of the BREATHE Act<sup>3</sup>, a proposal for a federal omnibus act, presented by the Electoral Justice Project of the Movement for Black Lives, a coalition of nonprofit groups representing the interests of Black communities across the United States, including the Black Lives Matter network<sup>4</sup>, the National Conference of Black Lawyers<sup>5</sup>, and the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights<sup>6</sup>. The BREATHE Act proposes to invest in alternate,

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<sup>1</sup> [Prince George's County Council - Reference No. CR-015-2025](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Text - H.R.4194 - 117th Congress \(2021-2022\): The People's Response Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

<sup>3</sup> [The BREATHE Act & People's Response Act \(PRA\) - Essie Justice](#) (web links to the text of the BREATHE Act do not function at present)

<sup>4</sup> [Home - M4BL](#)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

community-based approaches to public safety, and was drafted in response to police killings of unarmed Black people in the United States<sup>7</sup>. The BREATHE Act appears to no longer be publicly available

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#### **Resource Personnel:**

- Leroy Maddox, Legislative Officer
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#### **Discussion/Policy Analysis:**

There is a strong association between being imprisoned and mental health issues. Substance use disorders and other mental or behavioral health conditions are common among people who are incarcerated, with an estimated 2 million people with mental illness and substance use disorder being booked into jails every year<sup>8</sup>. The conditions of confinement may lead to worsening mental illness and substance use disorder<sup>9</sup>. Formerly incarcerated people experience also experience barriers to treatment upon re-entry into society<sup>10</sup>. Although the association between being incarcerated and behavioral health issues is well-documented, the specific barriers faced by formerly incarcerated people are less well understood. Studies have found that formerly incarcerated people receive very little practical support at a time when they have many complex tasks facing them simultaneously, such as searching for employment, searching for housing, and meeting parole requirements. As such, these responsibilities may interfere with mental health treatment. Furthermore, services, when available, tend not to focus on providing formerly incarcerated people with basic needs, like housing, employment and access to medical services through health insurance. Other barriers include the difficulties of navigating the healthcare system and poor discharge planning upon leaving prison<sup>11</sup>.

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#### **Fiscal Impact:**

- *Direct Impact*

Adoption of CR-015-2025 will not have any direct fiscal impact.

- *Indirect Impact*

Adoption of CR-015-2025 will not have any indirect fiscal impact.

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<sup>7</sup> [The BREATHE Act & People's Response Act \(PRA\) - Essie Justice](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Understanding barriers to mental health care among formerly incarcerated people – Recovery Research Institute](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Research Roundup: Incarceration can cause lasting damage to mental health | Prison Policy Initiative](#)

<sup>10</sup> [The formerly incarcerated are helping newly released prisoners cope with life after prison](#)

<sup>11</sup> Ibid

- *Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget*

N/A.

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**Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:**

The proposed Resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

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If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please reach out to me via phone or email.