

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2016 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-96-2016
Draft No.: 1
Committee: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Date: 10/25/2016
Action: FAV

REPORT:

CB-96-2016 proposes to add a waiver for those employed by Developmentally Disabilities Administration Providers from the minimum wage established by the County. CB-94-2013 increased the minimum wage for employees in the County. The wage rate set by the County has caused a challenge for certain Disability Providers because they cannot afford to pay their workers the County's minimum wage. As such CB-96-2016 proposes to set in place a waiver.

During the Committee meeting there was robust discussion on this matter. Several speakers from the Disability Providers spoke out against the proposed waiver. There was a feeling that these workers deal with the most vulnerable population and that their wages should reflect their responsibilities.

The Chair of the Council expressed that this is a very complex issue. Tom Himler, Deputy CAO, explained the Administration's position on this matter. All agreed that this issue will require State input. It was suggested that this issue would be on the Council's State Legislative agenda for the 2017 General Assembly session.

Council members expressed their positions on this bill. All agreed something has to be done to address this problem.

After considerable discussion on CB-96-2016, the Committee of the Whole voted CB-96-2016 out with no recommendation 6-1. (In Favor: Council Members Davis, Glaros, Franklin, Lehman, Taveras and Turner. Opposed: Council Member Patterson. Absent: Council Members Harrison and Toles)