

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**2021 Legislative Session**

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<b>Reference No.:</b>	CB-097-2021
<b>Draft No.:</b>	1
<b>Committee:</b>	Committee of the Whole
<b>Date:</b>	10/12/2021
<b>Action:</b>	FAV

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**REPORT:** Favorable 9-0: Council Members Hawkins, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Glaros, Harrison, Ivy, Taveras, and Turner. Absent: Franklin and Streeter.

The Prince George's County Council convened as the Committee of the Whole on October 12, 2021 to consider CB-097-2021. CB-097-2021 is proposed legislation that will amend Division 12 - Office of Human Rights ("OHR") of the Prince George's County Code. The goal of this amendment is to ensure substantial equivalency with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's ("HUD") Fair Housing Act ("FHA"). By having substantially equivalent language, Prince George's County's Office of Human Rights will be able to apply for certification as a HUD Fair Housing Assistance Program ("FHAP"), which gives the authority to receive and investigate federal housing discrimination complaints at the local agency level.

The first proposed amendment is to revise definitions to ensure similar language with the Fair Housing Act. This provides additional clarifications to terms used throughout various sections of Division 12 involving housing and residential real-estate related transactions.

The next proposed amendment is to clarify investigative procedures. One of the qualifications for substantial equivalency under the FHAP is that the Agency must be very specific about the procedure to receive and process housing complaints, delegate certain authority to the Agency, and clarify the process for final administrative dispositions of housing cases. The final amendment is to add a section to Division 12 that identifies a clear process for administrative and judicial protection and enforcement for housing cases. This ensures language and procedural equivalency with the federal Fair Housing Act.

The Office of Law reports CB-097-2021 to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment.

The Policy Group reports that enactment of CB-097-2021 will have a negative impact on the County in that there will most likely be a need for more investigators.

After discussion, the Prince George's County Council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, voted CB-

C - -2018 (DR-1) – Report  
097-2021 out favorably, 9-0.

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