

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2017 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-62-2017

Draft No.: 2

Committee: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Date: October 17, 2017

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 5-3-1 (In favor: Council Members Davis, Glaros, Turner, Taveras and Franklin. Opposed: Council Members Harrison, Toles and Patterson. Abstained: Council Member Lehman)

The Legislative Officer summarized the purpose of the legislation, including amendments in a Proposed Draft-2 (DR-2) such as:

- 1) Page 2, Line 21, Inserting the "Department of the Environment".
- 2) Page 2, Line 22, Deleting "coordinates and supervises" and replace with "monitors".
- 3) Page 3, Line 13, Deleting "provide" and replace with "designate a Language Access Coordinator to coordinate requests for access to".
- 4) Page 4, Line 10, Deleting "A covered entity" and replace with "The County".
- 5) Page 4, Lines 15-17, Deleting "If it is demonstrated to the Human Relations Commission that this is not feasible due to budgetary constraints, a covered entity shall make all due efforts to comply with this paragraph by the beginning of the next fiscal year."
- 6) Page 4, Line 21, Deleting "provide" and replace with "coordinate".
- 7) Page 4, Line 24, Deleting "provide" and replace with "designate a Language Access Coordinator to coordinate requests".
- 8) Page 4, Line 25, Deleting "3% or 500" and replace with "5% or 10,000".
- 9) Page 5, Line 2, Deleting "language access coordinator" and replace with "Language Access Coordinator".
- 10) Page 5, Lines 16-17, Deleting "language access coordinator" and replace with "Language Access Coordinator".
- 11) Page 5, Lines 26-27, Deleting "central coordination, technical assistance to" and replace with "monitoring, and investigation of".
- 12) Page 5, Line 28, Before the word "ensure", Insert "report annually to the County Council and County Executive".
- 13) Page 5, Line 31, Deleting "coordinate" and replace with "monitor".
- 14) Page 6, Line 13, Deleting "language access coordinator" and replace with "Language Access Director".

Council Member Taveras, the bill’s sponsor, informed the Committee that CB-62-2017 addresses the need for oral and written communications from County Government to the public to be in different languages in order to take into the changing ethnic demographics of the County.

The Committee’s discussion focused on coordination issues, monitoring responsibilities, effects on current County Government staffing levels, and breadth of potential fiscal impacts of the legislation. Council Members Harrison and Toles expressed concern as to accuracy of the fiscal impact because Stan Earley (Office of Management and Budget Director) was unable to definitively quantify all of the costs involved in implementing and maintaining the requirements of the legislation. A motion to table the legislation was proffered by Council Members Harrison and Toles but failed by a vote of 4-5.

The Committee voted favorable on Proposed DR-2 with the following additional amendments as proffered by Council Members Glaros and Turner:

- 1) Page 2, Line 30, Deleting “shall” and replace with “may”.
- 2) Page 3, Line 14, Deleting “Coordinator” and replace with “Contact”.
- 3) Page 4, Lines 22-25, Deleting entire subsection (e).
- 4) Page 5, Line 6, Deleting “Coordinator” and replace with “Contact”.
- 5) Page 5, Line 21, Deleting “Coordinator” and replace with “Contact”.
- 6) Page 6, Line 14, Deleting “language access coordinators” and replace with “Language Access Contacts”.
- 7) Page 6, Line 21, Deleting “language access coordinators” and replace with “Language Access Contacts”.
- 8) Page 7, Line 1, Insert as the NEW Section 3. The following:
“SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the Human Relations Commission shall provide a report to the County Council on or before March 15, 2018, as to the operations and the fiscal impacts of the language access requirements and oral language services provided by covered entities in the County.”