

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2025 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-70-2025

Draft No.: 1

Committee: GOFP

Date: October 9, 2025

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT: Committee Vote: Favorably with amendments, 5-0 (Council Members Watson, Blegay, Burroughs, Oriadha and Dernoga)

The County Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee convened on October 9, 2025, to consider CB-070-2025, an act concerning subcontractor requirements for businesses that do not qualify as a County-based small business or County-based minority business enterprise.

During the meeting, council staff provided an overview of the legislation, which would create a mandate that, in order for any contract to be given to a business that does not qualify as a County-based Small Business or County-based Minority Business Enterprise, that business shall have a subcontract with a County-based Small Business for a minimum value of fifteen percent (15%) of the total contract value.

The new law, if approved, would require that in order for any contract to be provided from the County to a business that does not qualify as a County-Based Minority Business Enterprise, that business shall have a mandatory subcontracting requirement with a County-Based Small Business for a minimum value of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the total contract value.

The Office of Law, represented by Ms. Terry Bell, explained that a reference to race and any issue that is not race-neutral creates risk for the County, and creating the floor described in the legislation could lead to that issue.

The Administration was represented by the County Executive's Liaison to the County Council, Ms. Sonia Owens, Office of Procurement Deputy Director, Darlene Perkins, and Mr. Cory Jefferson, Legislative Policy Advisor, who spoke in support of supporting all small businesses and thanked the council for its interest.

Expressed concerns about the challenges that could be created by draft one.

It was noted that the County code already includes strong enforceable protections and that, as written currently, there is no dollar amount. Without amendments, the language is ambiguous, and even small purchases would fall under this, which may discourage participation. Efforts currently under way to streamline the process could be made more challenging, and it may dilute the effectiveness of current set-asides.

Council Vice-Chair Oriadha explained that the legislation is designed to intentionally develop businesses already in the county. This bill, as amended, would create a floor at 15% for County-Based MBEs under the current 50 % for any procurement that is greater than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000).

Additional amendments include:

1. On page 1, strike all text on lines 2 and 3, strike and replace with “County-based minority business participation on procurements of greater than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in total value.”
2. Strike all text from page 1, lines 4 through 7, and replace with “For the purpose of requiring a certain percentage of County-based minority business enterprise participation in certain County contracts; and generally relating to the County-based small business assistance.”
3. On page 1, line 10, strike “Sections 10A-136, 10A-163” and replace with “Section 10A-161,” and on page 1, line 14, strike “Sections 10A-136 and 10A-163” and replace with “Section 10A-161”
4. On page one, line 15, strike “are” and replace with “is.”
5. Strike all text from page 1, line 16 through page 2, line 4, and page 2, lines 8 through 13, and insert the following:

After a motion from Council Member Blegay and a second from Council Vice-Chair Oriadha, the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee voted favorably as amended, 5-0.