

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2026 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-005-2026

Draft No: 2

Committee: COW

Date: March 3, 2026

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable 10-0 (In favor Council Members: Oriadha, Olson, Adams-Stafford, Adams, Blegay, Burroughs, Dernoga, Fisher, Hunter, and Ivey)

The Council convened as the COW to consider CB-005-2026, sponsored by Council Members Dernoga and Council Chair Oriadha. The legislation was previously presented and referred to the COW on February 17, 2026, for consideration.

Staff provided an overview stating that CB-005-2026 is designed to prohibit certain individuals from county employment by restricting eligibility for County government jobs for individuals employed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement after June 30, 2025. The purpose of the bill is to clarify and establish limits on who may be considered for employment with the County, and to define the categories of individuals whose current federal employment status would render them ineligible for county positions. The bill also authorizes the County Executive to delegate to appropriate officials the authority to determine and certify eligibility as authorized under this bill.

A Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement was provided by Mr. Roger Banegas, Legislative Budget & Policy Analyst. Mr. Banegas provided background on the broader national context surrounding federal immigration enforcement agencies. He referenced recent high-profile incidents that have contributed to public concern and distrust of ICE, which, in turn, has led some states and jurisdictions to consider measures that limit cooperation with the agency.

He explained that CB-005-2026 would amend the Prince George's County Code by adding a new section under Subtitle 16 (Personnel), Division 5, relating to methods of filling positions. He clarified that the provision would apply prospectively and would not affect individuals who were already County employees as of the section's effective date.

Mr. Banegas indicated that the enactment of CB-005-2026 will not have a direct fiscal impact and may have a favorable indirect fiscal impact by potentially increasing public trust in public safety officials, as they would not come from a Customs and Border Protection or Immigration and Customs Enforcement background.

Council Chair Oriadha explained her support for CB-005-2026, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that individuals serving in public safety roles in the County reflect the community's values and expectations. She expressed concern that hiring individuals formerly employed by federal immigration enforcement agencies could undermine ongoing efforts to strengthen trust between law enforcement and residents. She stated that individuals who actively sought or supported those roles should not be placed in positions responsible for policing or protecting County communities.

Council Member Dernoga provided additional information on the development of the legislation, noting that discussion began after observing events involving federal immigration enforcement activities in cities such as Los Angeles and Chicago. Council Member Dernoga acknowledged the complexity of the issue, particularly in distinguishing between individuals who may have remained employed for financial reasons and those who supported the agencies' actions.

Council Member Dernoga explained that the bill was drafted with a July 1 threshold to reflect a point at which concerns surrounding those agencies had become widely visible. However, the Council Member indicated openness to amendments, including narrowing the bill's scope to apply specifically to sworn law enforcement officers or individuals in direct administrative support roles. The Council Member also noted that the timeline referenced in the bill could be adjusted and welcomed input from colleagues to refine the legislation while maintaining its core intent of affirming the values expected of County employees.

During the COW discussion on CB-005-2026, the Council heard testimony from members of the public in support of the legislation.

Representatives from CASA, Eden Aaron, Liz Enagonio, a Bowie resident and longtime immigration rights advocate, along with Mohamed Alghal, a community advocate, and Tamara Zuniga, of Progressive Maryland, testified in support of CB-005-2026 and the broader package of immigration-related legislation. Through their testimony, the contributions immigrants make to their communities were highlighted, and they expressed their support for the legislation to protect immigrant families and to reinforce trust between the community and local government.

Council Member Dernoga proposed an amendment to CB-005-2026 on page 1, line 15, Sec. 16-150-01. (a) reads "No appointing authority shall fill any vacant position in the classified service or the exempt service within the Police Department, Office of the Sheriff, or Department of Corrections with a candidate who was employed as a sworn officer or served in a direct administrative support role for sworn officers in the following federal agencies, unless their employment terminated prior to October 1, 2025.

Council Member Dernoga made a motion to move favorably on the amendment, seconded by Council Member Ivey. During the vote, Council Member Dernoga stated that he would support the amendment, but noted concern raised by an attorney regarding whether the term “direct administrative support role” should be more clearly defined. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

After discussion, the COW voted favorably 10-0 on CB-005-2026 as amended.