

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2026 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-026-2026

Draft No.: 2

Committee: Committee of the Whole (COW)

Date: April 7, 2026

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable with Amendments 8-0 (Oriadha, Olson, Adams, Blegay, Burroughs, Dernoga, Fisher, and Ivey)

The Council sitting as the Committee of the Whole met on April 7, 2026, to consider CB-026-2026.

Staff provided an overview stating that the bill, sponsored by Council Chair Oriadha, proposes to permit certain federally certified businesses with a principal address, primary place of operation, or domicile in Prince George's County to use their federal certification to satisfy the County's small business assistance program requirements. In addition, the bill proposes extending the certification period from 2 to 3 years, streamlining the process for qualifying as a locally owned and operated business, and renaming the County resident-owned business preference to the locally owned and operated business preference.

The Office of Procurement submitted written comments on the bill, and the Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst provided an overview of the Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement. The analysis noted that enacting CB-026-2026 will have an adverse fiscal impact because the agency will need to make multiple changes to its procurement process. The agency mentions no staffing changes required.

Enactment of CB-026-2026 may have an indirect impact by potentially increasing the procurement of county goods and services from locally owned and operated businesses.

Simplifying the small-purchase procurement process may increase expenditure through small purchasing agreements, as execution becomes easier. Conversely, current economic conditions may result in no net change in expenditure or even a reduction in expenditures on County procurement contracts.

Council Chair Oriadha explained that it addresses gaps identified in prior procurement discussions where a local preference program existed but lacked a clear certification process to verify eligibility. The intent is to ensure that locally owned businesses, defined as those headquartered in the County and majority-owned by County residents, can be properly certified and receive the intended preference points. The sponsor also noted that, following discussions with the County Executive's office and the Office of Procurement, amendments have been developed to refine and improve implementation.

The Council Liaison, County Executive's Office, indicated support for CB-026-2026 with the amendment proposed in coordination with the Office of Procurement.

The Office of Procurement Director noted appreciation for the opportunity to work with the sponsor's office and staff to review the bill and refine its provisions. She expressed general agreement with the amendments and confidence that the changes would allow the County to implement the program effectively and as needed to support successful execution.

Office of Law indicated that it needs additional time to review the proposed amendments to CB-026-2026.

The legislative Attorney highlighted that the most significant change eliminates the separate certification process while retaining the existing definition of a locally owned and operated business. He also noted a related clarification, renaming the "county resident-owned business preference" as the "locally owned and operated business preference," while preserving its exemption from the general 15% cap on preference points.

He further explained the operation refinements intended to improve implementation, including a requirement that business owners seeking the preference be domiciled in the County for at least 12 months prior to award. He also emphasized a new requirement directing the purchasing agent to provide clear guidance to bidders on qualification criteria and documentation needed to establish eligibility.

Additional technical amendments carried forward from Draft 1 were noted, including extending certain certification validity periods from two to three years. Finally, he identified one additional requested change from the Office of Procurement, which would strike a specified paragraph in the draft.

After discussion, the Council Sitting as the Committee of the Whole, voted favorably 8-0 on CB-026-2026 Draft 2.