

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2025 Legislative Session

---

**Reference No.:** CB-005-2025

**Draft No.:** 1

**Committee:** GOFP

**Date:** March 13, 2025

**Action:** FAV

---

**REPORT:** Committee Vote: Favorable 5-0 (Council Members Watson, Dernoga, Oriadha, Hawkins, and Harrison)

The Prince George's County Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee convened on February 27, 2025, and also on March 13, 2025, to consider **CB-005-2025** an act concerning **Minimum Wage Indexing**. The GOFP Committee Director summarized the purpose of the legislation, and the feedback provided by stakeholders. The legislation would index the Prince George's County minimum wage to the Consumer Price Index and address the adverse impact felt by Direct Support Professionals by helping keep pace with minimum wage increases. This proposed bill would ensure that the wages of Direct Support Professionals correspond with their professional positions and that the County is financially capable of funding the Direct Support Professionals Wage Supplement.

The Director of Finance would be responsible for setting the rate beginning March 1, 2026, based on the immediately preceding 12-month period for which data is available on March 1 of each year. For every percentage increase in the minimum wage rate the amount will be reduced by the amount of the percentage increase in the State Direct Support Professionals reimbursement rate for the fiscal year. The County will increase the total Direct Support Professionals Wage Supplement by such percentage multiplied by the prior calendar year's total wages, and employee-related expenses for County Direct Support Professionals reported to the State. If the County General fund revenues for the fiscal year are projected to increase less than the Consumer Price Index, then the County Council may reduce the increase in the minimum wage rate determined under subsection (g) by up to two percent (2%).

During the February 27 committee meeting. Representatives from disability service provider organizations presented information about the status of disability services. Currently, there are 2,500 Direct Service Providers (DSP) providing services to 2,000 people. Under the existing financial supplement that the County provides the number of people enrolled in DDA services in the County that go unserved has been reduced from

more than 150 individuals to 23. The bill was held in committee for additional work.

During the March 13 meeting Council Member Dernoga inquired about the impact on the budget. Rob Malone, Executive Director of the ARC responded and spoke about a meeting with the County Executive and the work done to ensure the county has a safety mechanism to protect finances.

Council Member Harrison spoke about the challenging financial situation and cautioned that the numbers could be drastically different next year. We need to make a sound and clear commitment. Ms. Skinner, representing the Office of the County Executive, committed to providing information prior to the Bills Introduction and confirmed that this legislation is a priority. Council Member Hawkins stated a desire to move forward.

Council Members suggested figuring out language that will create a mechanism for review in the future, allowing concerns about the budget to be addressed should they arise. Council Member Dernoga is concerned that the budget amount is insufficient and wants to ensure the County meets its commitments under this law.

Mr. Rob Malone, Executive Director of the ARC responded that the bill provides a buffer to protect the County if revenue is insufficient.

Mr. Chris Collins, who has needed services since a car accident at 18, spoke in support.

Ms. McCoy spoke on behalf of her daughter in support.

Ms. Charles, a Direct Service Provider, spoke in support.

Also speaking in support were:

Ms. Brown

Ms. Danielle Anderson

Mr. Robert Davis Jr.

Mr. Malone spoke about the language built into the bill that best protects the county and the workers.

Council Member Harrison spoke about his support for the legislation but cautioned that the County's current budget realities could create potential challenges in implementing the bill. Council Member Oriadha addressed those in attendance and assured everyone that this legislation is a priority for all council members.

After further discussion the Government Operation Committee voted on CB-5-2025 favorably 5-0.