

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2026 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-015-2026

Draft No.: 2

Committee: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Date: 3/24/2026

Action: FAVORABLE
WITH
AMENDMENTS

REPORT: Committee Vote: Favorable with Amendments, 8-0-1 (In favor: Chair Oriadha, Council Members Adams, Adams-Stafford, Blegay, Dernoga, Fisher, Ivey, and Olson) Council Member Harrison abstained

The Prince George's County Council convened as the Committee of the Whole (COW) on March 24, 2026, to consider CB-015-2026. As presented on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, Draft-1 of the bill is for the purpose of establishing a Child Care Facilities Loan Program to preserve and increase childcare; providing for eligibility for and permissible uses of financial assistance from the Program; providing for the funding and administration of the Program; and generally relating to childcare facilities. PHED Committee Director Rana Hightower informed committee members about public comments and feedback received from agencies within Prince George's County.

The County Executive submitted a statement in support of CB-015-2025 with amendments.

The Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and Financial Services Corporation (FSC) provided comments supporting the bill with amendments. Both agencies explained that enactment of the bill, as drafted, would have both positive and negative impacts on facilitating the development of a loan program and providing financial assistance to early childhood education centers and home daycares.

Mr. Meashey, Director of Economic and Community Development with the City of Laurel, submitted written testimony supporting the legislation with amendments. Director Meashey requested that the bill be amended to raise the maximum loan to \$25,000 per applicant with a maximum loan cap of one million.

The Office of Law submitted a memorandum stating that the bill was in proper legislative form and that there were no legal impediments to its enactment.

Ms. Miller Whye provided a policy and fiscal analysis of the bill. The enactment of CB-015-2026 would adversely impact the EDI Fund, as it would require the fund to set aside \$500,000 to administer the Program. It may also require additional funding for two positions, including an underwriter at \$90,000 annually and an asset manager at \$88,0000 annually.

The indirect impact of the enactment of CB-015-2025 would be the recruitment and retention of childcare centers and homes within the County, especially regarding affordable care. This could also meet the gaps in the overall reduction of family childcare providers.

Chair Oriadha, the bill sponsor, explained that it is important to support Prince George's County's small businesses. The goal of the legislation is to create opportunities for small childcare providers while filling the much-needed gap for childcare facilities in the County. Chair Oriadha explained she met with EDC and FSC and prepared a DR-2 of the legislation that will address some of the issues and concerns outlined by the agencies.

Ms. Briana Meadows, founder and owner of Unleased Joy Early Childcare Center, spoke in support of the legislation.

The amendments proposed by Chair Oriadha changed the loan program to a grant program. The Program will still be administered through the Economic Development Incentive (EDI) Fund. Nonprofit organization eligibility under the Program was removed from the bill. The Program can be administered by either FSC, EDC, or an agency designated by the County Executive to mitigate costs associated with the legislation.

Council Member Harrison requested clarification on the process. He asked if the EDI Fund could only be used for commercial retail shopping centers. Are additional amendments needed to permit a childcare program under the EDI Fund?

Mr. Andre Plummer, Financial Services Manager for EDC, explained that the legislation includes language for conditional loans, conventional loans, and grants. He also explained that EDC has previously awarded grants.

Mr. Hamlin, Legislation Attorney, explained that the bill includes language amending the EDI Fund law to make childcare a permissible activity under the EDI Fund.

Council Member Burroughs asked for a rationale for why a grant rather than a loan is appropriate, and why the EDI Fund is the appropriate fund to use to preserve and increase childcare in the County. Council Member Burroughs explained his concerns about the EDI fund and said it would be better served by focusing on expanding an industry that would create jobs.

Mr. Hamlin explained that the EDC and FSC requested a grant instead of a loan. Council Member Burroughs explained that a loan keeps the fund solvent. Chair Oriadha explained that she agreed, but this would be a one-time grant in FY 2027, and that CB-007-2026 includes language for a long-term grant so that it would be moved out of the EDI Fund. All future funding would be allocated through the fund created by CB-007-2026.

On motion of Chair Oriadha, seconded by Vice Chair Olson, the Committee of the Whole voted 8-0-1 to amend the bill. Council Member Harrison abstained to learn more about the Program.

On motion of Chair Oriadha, seconded by Vice Chair Olson, the Committee of the Whole voted 8-0-1 favorable as amended on CB-015-2026.