



Prince George's County Council

Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 6/18/2024

Effective Date:

Reference No.: CB-010-2024

Chapter Number:

Draft No.: 2

Public Hearing Date: 05/28/2024 @ 10:00 AM

Proposer(s): Oriadha

Sponsor(s): Oriadha, Ivey, Watson, Olson, Fisher, Hawkins, Dernoga and Burroughs

Item Title: AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH AND FIREARM SAFETY LITERATURE for the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to prepare and distribute certain literature to establishments that sell firearms or ammunition; adding certain display and distribution requirements for sellers of firearms or ammunition; authorizing enforcement by the Department of Health and Human Services; making a civil violation for noncompliance; and generally relating to public safety.

Drafter: Amanda Denison, Chief Legislative Attorney

Resource Personnel:

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
02/27/2024	County Council	presented and referred	HHSPS
<p>Action Text: This Council Bill was presented by Council Member Oriadha and referred to the Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee.</p>			
03/21/2024	HHSPS	amended (1)	
<p>Action Text: A motion was made by Chair Fisher, seconded by Council Member Blegay, that this Council Bill be amended (1). The motion carried by the following vote: Aye: 4 Fisher, Blegay, Olson and Watson Absent: 1 Hawkins</p>			
03/21/2024	HHSPS	amended (2)	
<p>Action Text: A motion was made by Chair Fisher, seconded by Council Member Olson, that this Council Bill be amended (2). The motion carried by the following vote: Aye: 4 Fisher, Blegay, Olson and Watson Absent: 1 Hawkins</p>			
03/21/2024	HHSPS	amended (3)	

Action Text:

A motion was made by Chair Fisher, seconded by Council Member Olson, that this Council Bill be amended (3). The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 Fisher, Blegay, Olson and Watson

Absent: 1 Hawkins

03/21/2024 HHSPS Favorably County Council
recommended with
amendments

Action Text:

A motion was made by Chair Fisher, seconded by Council Member Watson, that this Council Bill be Favorably recommended with amendments. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 Fisher, Blegay, Olson and Watson

Absent: 1 Hawkins

04/09/2024 County Council introduced

Action Text:

This Council Bill was introduced by Council Members Oriadha, Ivey, Watson, Olson, Fisher, Hawkins, Dernoga and Burroughs.

05/28/2024 County Council public hearing held

Action Text:

The public hearing for this Council Bill was held.

06/18/2024 County Council enacted

Action Text:

A motion was made by Council Member Oriadha, seconded by Council Member Watson, that this Council Bill be enacted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 9 Ivey, Dernoga, Blegay, Burroughs, Fisher, Hawkins, Olson, Oriadha and Watson

Absent: 2 Harrison and Franklin

AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:

Recognizing the raising and untenable rates of firearm violence, suicide, and other violent acts committed in large part to mental health illness there needs to be legislative intervention. Firearm violence and suicide are a public health crisis that demands great effort to prevent further firearm violence and suicide from plaguing the County. Information published to the public about the dangers of firearms and suicide prevention is the first step in curbing firearm violence and suicide. This bill will help bring awareness to firearm violence, suicide awareness, and other violent acts.

This bill is modeled after Anne Arundel County's SAFE ACT law that was enacted on January 10, 2022.

Shortly after enactment, four (4) owners of gun stores filed a lawsuit against Anne Arundel County challenging the constitutionality of the law. In particular, the plaintiff's argued the law violates the First Amendment by compelling speech and furthering the opinions of the County. After the plaintiff's lost on summary judgment they filed an appeal in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Oral arguments were heard on October 13, 2023, and the parties are awaiting the court's opinion.

Document(s): B2024010, CB-010-2024 Report, CB-010-2024 PAFI