



May 14, 2026

POLICY ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

TO: Public Safety Health and Human Services Committee (PSHHS)

THRU: Nathaniel K. Tutt, III
Committee Director

FROM: Lavinia Baxter *LB*
Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement
CB-038-2026 Impersonation of Utility Companies and Government Agencies

CB-038-2026 (*proposed by:* Council Members Fisher and Adams-Stafford)

Assigned to the Public Safet, Health, and Human Services Committee (PSHHS)

AN ACT CONCERNING IMPERSATION OF UTILITY COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, for the purpose of amending the Prince George's County code to supplement existing law that prohibits a person from falsely representing that a person is, or is acting on behalf of, a utility company or any local, state, or federal government; providing penalties for those violations; and generally relating to consumer protections and unlawful practices.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: None anticipated.

Revenues: Increase in revenues likely.

Indirect Impact:

Potentially favorable.

Legislative Summary:

Website: <https://pgccouncil.us> | Wayne K. Curry Administration Bldg.
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CB-038-2026¹, sponsored by Council Members Fisher and Adams-Stafford, was presented on May 5, 2026, and referred to the Public Safety, Health, and Human Services (PSHHS) Committee. This bill is intended to protect Prince George's County residents from scams by people who falsely claim to be from a utility company or government agency. These impersonation schemes are often used to pressure residents into making payments, sharing personal or account information, or allowing access to their property. The bill would make that conduct an unlawful practice under established County law and create penalties for violators.

Implementation Summary:

With the enactment of CB-038-2026, Prince George's County Police will be tasked with the enforcement of these violations.

Current Law/Background:

CB-038-2026 would amend Subtitle 2, Administration, Division 8 Consumer Protections, Section 2-146 and 2-156. These sections outline unlawful practices pertaining to advertising or sales in connection to borrowing money or extending credit. The section states that it is unlawful to:

- 1) Practice deception, fraud, or misrepresentation
- 2) Conceal, suppress or omit any material fact by a merchant or lender; and,

The bill adds the following language:

- 3) Falsely representing by any person, directly or indirectly, that the person is acting on behalf of:
 - a. An employee, agent, contractor, subcontractor, or authorized representative of any utility company or provider;
 - b. An employee, agent, contractor, subcontractor, or authorized representative of any federal, state, or local government.

Effectively, this added language expands the list of those who can be implicated as bad actors in falsely representing who they are or a service they provide to the public.

Section 2-115, currently titled *Reserved*, would be renamed *Penalties for Impersonation of Utilities or Government*. This new language specifies penalties for the violations, which include misdemeanors upon conviction.

- 1) First Offence - Fines up to \$2,000 dollars and imprisonment not to exceed 60 days
- 2) Second Offence – Fines up to \$3,000 and imprisonment up to 60 days
- 3) Third Offence – Fines up to \$5,000 and imprisonment not to exceed 60 days.

These fines mirror language in state law, which are now \$5,000 or 2 years imprisonment.

¹ [CB-038-2026](#)

The Prince George's County Police Department would be responsible for the investigation of penalties under Section 2-146(a)(3).

Under Maryland law, Title 3 – Law Enforcement – Subtitle 5 and Section 3-502, Impersonating Police Officer; Other Prohibited Acts² it is illegal to assume a false identity of a representative of any law enforcement officer or organization. For example, one law makes it a felony to assume a false identity by wearing law enforcement uniforms and paraphernalia for any local, state, or federal entity.

Resource Personnel:

- Ramon Gonzalez, Legislative Attorney
- Shanika Griffith Chief of Staff (District 2)
- Travis A. Rickert, Assistant Deputy Chief, Prince George's County Police

Discussion/Policy Analysis:

Over the years, fraud in the form of impersonating government officials and utility workers has been an ongoing issue, especially with the increase in surveillance and enforcement of illegal immigrants. Across the news, there have been increasing reports about individuals impersonating Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, Police officers, as well posing as utility workers in order to gain access to suspected individual's homes or businesses. Most recently, in Montgomery County, a man was arrested for posing as a police officer. He allegedly conducted traffic stops, with a vehicle outfitted like a Police cruiser, while also wearing a fake badge, a holster with a replica black pistol, and other police paraphernalia.³

Utilities such as WSSC Water have issued guidelines to ensure that customers can identify their employees. On their website, they underscore that employees rarely need to enter their home, and if so, they will schedule an appointment. They also publish a number that customers may call for WSSC Water police that customers can call if they see suspicious activities.⁴ Pepco also publishes the same guidelines for its customers.⁵

The Prince George's County Police report that they don't anticipate any major hurdles with enforcement, as these cases are typically treated as fraud. They suggest that standardizing an official identification process or verification process for officers to confirm the legitimacy of a government representative on the scene would be helpful, as such tools do not already exist. Establishing a verification process would help officers verify identities and support successful enforcement. The table outlines the number of cases of impersonation by type. While the number of cases is low for utility companies, impersonation of law enforcement has grown from 9 to 15 cases over the last year.

² [Impersonating a Police Officer – MD Law Section 3-502](#)

³ [Maryland man allegedly impersonated police officer, with fake cruiser and gear](#)

⁴ [Identify WSSC Water Employees | WSSC Water](#)

⁵ [Scammers posing as Pepco workers in Prince George's County – NBC4 Washington](#)

IMPERSONATION CASES BY TYPE

2025 vs. 2026 Year-Over-Year Snapshot
 Data window: January 2, 2025 to May 12, 2026

| Impersonation Type | 2025 | | | 2026 (YTD through May 12) | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| | # Cases | Age Range | Loss | # Cases | Age Range | Loss |
| Local Law Enforcement | 9 | 24-64 | \$27,953 | 15 | 27-80 | \$146,600 |
| Federal Law Enforcement | 12 | 30-86 | \$645,702 | 7 | 28-87 | \$222,695 |
| Utility Company | 2 | 57-87 | \$18,998 | 6 | 51-91 | \$19,194 |
| Banks | 45 | 19-89 | \$1,130,418 | 20 | 24-87 | \$215,864 |
| Other | 99 | 18-85 | \$3,577,433 | 58 | 19-78 | \$2,099,305 |
| TOTAL (sum of rows*) | 167 | — | \$5,400,504 | 106 | — | \$2,703,658 |

Source: Prince George’s County Police Department

Fiscal Impact:

- *Direct Impact*

Adoption of CB-038-2026 will likely have a favorable direct fiscal impact on the County. With the convictions of people who violate Section 2-146, and the new fine structure under Section 2-154, impersonation penalties, should increase revenue. This structure also provides more teeth for consumer protection laws that the police and the State’s Attorney will enforce together.

- *Indirect Impact*

Adoption of CB-038-2026 should have a favorable indirect impact on the County by increasing awareness of these violations and strengthening current consumer protection laws.

- *Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget*

N/A

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:

The proposed Bill shall be effective forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

If you require additional information or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please reach out to me via phone or email.