

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2026 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-029-2026

Draft No.: 2

Committee: COW

Date: 4/07/2026

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as Amended, 7-0 (In favor: Council Members Oriadha, Olson, Adams, Blegay, Burroughs, Dernoga, and Ivey)

The Committee of the Whole convened on April 7, 2026, to discuss CB-29-2026, which amends Subtitle 2 (Administration) Division 14C Fees & Charges), Proposing the establishment of the “Sit-down Restaurant Permitting Incentive Program.” CB-29 defines a sit-down restaurant in accordance with Subtitle 27, Part 27-5 of the County Zoning Ordinance as “a restaurant whose principal method of operation consists of sit-down table service provided by dedicated waitstaff for on-site food and beverage consumption.” The legislation excludes restaurants whose principal method of operation consists of counter service, quick service, carryout service, as well as restaurants that provide drive-through service.

CB-29 provides an incentive for current sit-down restaurants as well as applicants for such businesses, providing a 50% reduction in specific fees and charges assessed pursuant to Section 2-253.63 of Subtitle 2, Division 14C of the County Code. The County’s Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) is required to: interpret the requirements of the incentive program; assess the features of the business or applicant; determine eligibility for the discount, and promulgate regulations to administer the program (subject to approval by council resolution).

During the discussion, DPIE provided written comments expressing concerns with the agency’s authority to conduct the required assessment of business features, and the need to define “principal method of operation.” The Committee accepted amendments to clarify that a sit-down restaurant must provide table service to at least ninety percent (90%) of its patrons, and one hundred percent (100%) of its patrons must be served by dedicated waitstaff. The Office of Law indicated that the bill is in proper form, with a technical amendment to the Zoning Ordinance reference. These amendments are included on page 1, line 19; and page 1, line 21, through page 2, line 2 of the proposed Draft 2.

The Policy Analysis & Fiscal Impact statement (PAFI) discusses the potentially favorable fiscal impact from the stimulation of the restaurant industry despite the reduction in fee revenues from the proposed discount.

After the discussion, the Committee of the Whole voted in favor of CB-29-2026 as amended by the sponsor, by a vote of 7-0.