

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2014 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-010-2014
Draft No.: 1
Committee: HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
Date: 07/15/2014
Action: FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Patterson, Davis, Lehman and Turner)

Staff provided a summary of the legislation and referral comments that were received. CB-10-2014 amends Subtitle 12, Section 12-110 of the Prince George's County Code to establish a permit and fee for a Sampler's License in County based Farmer's Markets. The proposed Bill adds to the Food Service Facility permit fee schedule a Farmer's Market Sampler's License that can be issued for a time period of fourteen (14) to fifty (50) days to a holder of a Farmer's Market permit for a fee of Twenty-Five (\$25.00). The permit's fee is currently \$175.00 which could potentially be a burden for a local farmer making a living from selling produce.

The Farmer's Market Sampler's License would allow the licensee to offer samples of their farm products for immediate human consumption. The Farmer's Market Sampler's License does not apply to whole uncut produce or products produced with an On Farm Processing License.

The Health Officer indicated that regulations currently exist to protect the sanitation of the food; inspections and sanitary facilities for on-site food preparation; and acquiring a permit as cut produce samples may cause contamination of cutting instruments and cross-contamination of food. Violators are shut down and the market manager explaining the appropriate procedure.

The Office of the County Executive has reviewed the legislation and has provided a favorable recommendation.

The Office of Audits and Investigations determined that CB-10-2014 if enacted will ease the burdens placed on local farmers supports the local economy and should provide a positive fiscal impact.

The Office of Law reviewed the Bill and finds it to be in proper legislative form.