

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2023 Legislative Session

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| Reference No.: | CR-018-2023 |
| Draft No.: | 2 |
| Committee: | Health, Human Services, and Public Safety |
| Date: | 03/18/2023 |
| Action: | FAV (A) |

REPORT: Favorable as amended 4-0: Council Members, Oriadha, Blegay, Burroughs, Dernoga, Absent: Franklin.

The Prince George's County Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, March 20, 2023, to discuss CR-018-2023, a Resolution concerning the Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program, to create the Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program, to be modeled after the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED) program in Stockton, California; and tailored to the needs and resources in Prince George's County, Maryland in conjunction with aid from the Greater Washington Community Foundation.

Representatives of the foundation provided information about how a Guaranteed Basic Income program works to target the Racial Wealth Income gap with successful results.

The sponsor, Committee Chair Oriadha, noted that the private sector has already raised \$2 million and that a workgroup will be formed to research the most appropriate participants to target for inclusion in the Pilot Program. The ultimate goal is to encourage change at the Federal level to support the work of foundations and local governments.

Council Member Burroughs raised concerns about longtime sustainability and asked what support participants need to be successful. Kim Ford, Consultant, Greater Washington Community Foundation, noted that guaranteed income is a targeted initiative that attempts to address inequities and also pointed out that data has shown that participants outperform their peers. Sustainability is a concern, but this works, and it works because it provides a no strings attached program which builds dignity; the economic improvements build communities, as well as mental health improvement through reduced stress.

The Adoption of CR-018-2023 would have an adverse fiscal impact on the County in the form of additional expenditures of up to \$2,000,000. The total cost is \$4,000,000 and includes \$1 million from the Community Foundation and another \$1 million that the Community Foundation raised from the private sector.

The Council’s legislative staff described the amendments that increase the number of County Council progress reports. Draft 2 removes the requirement for an allocation and replaces that with a commitment and changes the reporting frequency to annual.

Ms. Terry Bell, Office of the County Executive, noted that the administration supports the concept, but the administration believes private funding should be used instead of the county budget.

After discussion, the Prince George’s County Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee voted out CR-018-2023, DR 2, favorably with amendments, 4-0.