

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

1997 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-20-1997

Proposed by Council Member Estep

Introduced by Council Member Estep

Co-Sponsors

Date of Introduction March 25, 1997

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning

Private Home Detention Services

For the purpose of requesting the Governor and the Prince George's County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly to enact into law appropriate regulations and establish appropriate standards for the release of criminal defendants into the custody of private for profit home detention operators and adopt administrative regulations to establish minimum standards of operation for private for profit home detention operators.

WHEREAS, State Court judges are releasing criminal defendants in increasing numbers to the custody of private for-profit home detention operators in lieu of bond or other financial security; and

WHEREAS, private for-profit home detention operators are not licensed by the State or the County and neither the County police or corrections departments have any authority to establish standards for private for profit home detention operators or to monitor the operations of such firms; and

WHEREAS, there are no established minimum standards of operation for private for profit home detention operators; and

WHEREAS, private for profit home detention operators are paid based upon the number of criminal defendants maintained under supervision and face a loss of revenue if criminal defendants violate the terms of release and are incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, increasingly, State Court judges are releasing to the custody of private for profit home detention operators criminal defendants who have been charged with serious

violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, criminal defendants who are not supervised properly and who are not re-incarcerated in the event of a violation of the conditions of release from custody are more likely to commit serious violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Council has an interest in encouraging a greater level of supervision for criminal defendants released into the custody of private for profit home detention operators to protect the citizens of the County; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of private for profit home detention operators and the conditions for the pre-trial release of criminal defendants by the State Courts is exclusively within the province of the State of Maryland.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the Governor and the Prince George's County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly are requested to introduce and urged to enact into law appropriate regulations of private for profit home detention operators and to establish appropriate standards for the release of criminal defendants into the custody of private for profit home detention operators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and the Secretary of Public Safety, in consultation with corrections and parole and probation professions at the state and county level, adopt interim administrative regulations to establish minimum standards of operation for private for profit home detention operators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Council is directed to mail a copy of this Resolution to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Delegates and each member of the Prince George's County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly.

Adopted this 1st day of April, 1997.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY:
Dorothy F. Bailey
Chair

ATTEST:

Joyce T. Sweeney
Clerk of the Council