

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2026 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-044-2026

Draft No.: 2

Committee: COW

Date: 6/2/2026

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

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

The Committee of the Whole convened on May 26th, and again on June 2, 2026, to discuss CB-44-2026, which amends Subtitle 23 (Roads & Sidewalks), Division 6 (Uses Within The County Right-Of-Way), which addresses signs placed in county rights of way without a permit, or signs attached to a traffic control device, roadside tree, utility pole or any other structure in the right-of-way.

Specifically, CB-44 amends:

Sec. 23-608 (Illegal signs or objects):

- removes the opportunity to rebut ownership of an illegal sign by convincing evidence, and
- specifies that any illegally placed sign is owned by, and attached by, the person identified on the sign (by name, address, website, etc.)

Sec. 23-610 (Violations and civil penalties):

- increases the current fine structure from:
 - \$100 for the first violation, \$500 for the second violation, and \$1,000 for all subsequent violations, to:
 - \$1,000 per sign for the first violation, \$2,000 per sign for the second violation, and \$5,000 per sign for all subsequent violations
- requires Public Service Companies to remove signs affixed to their infrastructure in the R-O-W within 48 hours of receiving written notice from the Department of Public Works & Transportation
- Establishes the same fine structure per sign for Public Service Companies that do not comply with the 48-hour removal provisions in the bill, and
- Changes the standard for challenging the County's right to recover civil penalties and the cost for removal of signs and objects in the R-O-W from:

- Clear and convincing evidence to the contrary provided by the defendant, to:
- Evidence provided by the defendant that the Department's determinations are arbitrary and capricious

The Committee held the bill on May 26th at the County Executive's request for the consideration of amendments. On June 2nd, the Committee considered an amendment to remove the changes to the evidentiary standard. The Committee accepted this amendment.

After the discussion, the Committee of the Whole voted in favor of CB-44-2026 as amended by a vote of 7-0.