

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2024 Legislative Session

---

**Reference No.:** CB-098-2024

**Draft No.:** 2

**Committee:** TIEE

**Date:** 10/10/2024

**Action:** FAV(A)

---

### REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as Amended, 4-0 (In Favor: Council Members Olson, Burroughs, Dernoga, and Fisher).

The Committee convened on October 10, 2024, to discuss CB-98-2024, which requires large retail establishments (providing 20 or more shopping carts) to install security mechanisms to restrict carts from leaving the business premises. Additionally, the bill imposes a daily fine on business owners who fail to retrieve carts found in the community within three business days. The legislation authorizes the Department of Permitting, Inspections & Enforcement (DPIE) to carry out compliance inspections and develop regulations to implement this legislation. If enacted, retail businesses would need to comply with the proposed requirements by May 31, 2025.

CB-98 would require retail businesses to place durable weatherproof signs on all shopping carts that display the name, address, and working phone number of the business that may be used to return the shopping cart. Furthermore, it mandates that retail businesses implement anti-theft protocols for shopping carts prescribed in the legislation. As proposed, DPIE is required to promulgate the regulations to enforce CB-98 provisions, and the regulations must be posted on the County Government website.

DPIE staff expressed concerns regarding the agency's authority to issue citations and impound shopping carts, which are private property. The Maryland Retailers Alliance expressed concerns regarding the fines and education/outreach needed for retail establishments to achieve compliance. In response to concerns, the sponsor proposed the following amendments:

- References to the enforcement authority are changed from DPIE to County Government to allow the authority to be assigned to the appropriate county agency(s)
- All forms of the term "abandoned" are replaced by forms of the word "discarded"
- Provisions regarding fines for non-compliant shopping carts are deleted
- "Security" deposits for shopping carts were changed to "coin" deposits
- Provisions regarding the retrieval of abandoned carts (sec. 5-280) were removed
- The regulations must be published rather than posted on the County website

After discussion, the Committee voted favorably on CB-98-2024 as amended by a vote of 4-0.