

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2023 Legislative Session

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<b>Reference No.:</b>	CR-82-2023
<b>Draft No.:</b>	1
<b>Committee:</b>	Health, Human Services, and Public Safety
<b>Date:</b>	10/19/2023
<b>Action:</b>	FAV w/Amendments

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**REPORT:** Favorable 5-0: Council Members Oriadha, Blegay, Burroughs, Dernoga and Franklin

The Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee (HHSPS) convened on October 19, 2023, to consider CR 82 A Resolution concerning establishing a task force to address hospital emergency room wait times. The purpose is to establish a task force on reducing hospital emergency room wait times to study best practices and make recommendations for reducing emergency room wait times.

During the meeting, the sponsor explained the purpose and expressed that it became clear that there are multiple issues that must be addressed and that a task force is the best way to address this complex challenge. A presentation of the Policy and Fiscal Analysis for the legislation was provided, and stakeholders spoke in support of the legislation and suggested amendments. The Council's legislative officer confirmed that as a result of Amendment 1, which was adopted, the task force will grow from 11 members to 17. In draft 1, the members are:

1. The Chair of the Board of Health, or their designee, who will serve as the Chair;
2. A representative of a hospital located in Prince George's County, Maryland;
3. A representative from Non-Profit organization located in Prince George's County;
4. A representative from the Prince George's Fire/EMS Department;
5. A representative from the Prince George's County Department of Health's  
Healthcare Action Coalition;
6. A State Delegate or State Senator representing Prince George's County,  
Maryland;
7. An emergency room physician practicing in Prince George's County, Maryland;

8. An emergency room nurse practicing in Prince George's County, Maryland;
9. "Three (3) residents of Prince George's County, Maryland or three (3) representatives of organizations representing communities in Prince George's County, Maryland; and"
10. A representative from SEIU Local 1199; and
11. A staff member of the Legislative Branch as directed by the County Chair of the  
Board of Health.

Pursuant to Amendment 1, the two additional members will be:

- "One Registered Nurse employed in an Emergency Department who is a member of an employee organization that is the exclusive bargaining representative of health care workers"; and
- "One Service Employee employed in an Emergency Department who is a member of an employee organization that is the exclusive bargaining representative of health care workers."

The County Council Liaison stated that the County Executive is in support of the legislation.

The Office of Law finds CR-082-2023 to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment.

After discussion, the Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee, voted favorable as amended 5-0.