

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2024 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-016-2025

Draft No.: 2

Committee: GOFP

Date: June 10, 2025

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT: Committee Vote: Favorable with amendments 5-0 (Council Members Watson, Burroughs, Oriadha, Blegay, and Dernoga)

The Prince George's County Council Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee convened on March 13 and June 10, 2025, to consider CB-016-2025, an act concerning Public Safety Employment Decisions. Applicants for uniformed positions with the County Police and Fire/EMS departments would not be denied certification or selection exclusively on the basis of a positive pre-employment screening for cannabis or marijuana.

Council staff noted that there will be no direct fiscal impact although it may have a favorable indirect impact of filling more positions. This Bill modifies existing legislation and should not require additional resources or personnel. There may be cost savings if fewer drug screenings are done because Applicants are more trusting of admitting to cannabis use during the hiring process.

Enactment of CB-016-2025 may have a favorable indirect impact by reducing the number of instances in which users of a legal substance are denied the opportunity to work for the County. Additionally, improvement in the filling of law enforcement vacancies is likely to have a favorable indirect impact.

Mr. Eric Irving, the legislative officer, reviewed proposed amendments to draft 1 on page 1 line 3. The new title now states: An act concerning Public Safety Decisions for the purpose of protecting the eligibility of applicants for uniformed public safety positions who disclose prior legal marijuana use.

Ms. Sakinda Skinner and subject matter experts from Fire and Police departments attended and provided operational information to the committee members.

Staff from the OOL described the process as it relates to the COMAR regulations.

Council Vice Chair Oriadha stated that this is a problem with the process and not a legal issue and noted that some other jurisdictions have a similar law.

CB-90-2024 seems to clarify this matter and is already the law, and other jurisdictions have addressed the challenges.

Chief Green noted that CB-90 addressed the application process, and today, this law would address challenges with the background recruitment process.

After further discussion, the Prince George's County Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee voted favorably 5-0, as amended.