

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2026 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-18-2026

Draft No.: 2

Committee: Committee of the Whole (COW)

Date: March 24, 2026

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: 6-0 Favorable (In favor Council Members Chair Oriadha, Adams, Burroughs, Dernoga, Fisher, and Vice Chair Olson)

The County Council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, met on March 24, 2026, to consider CB-018-2026.

Staff provided an overview of CB-018-2026, the Child Care Consumer Contract Protection Act of 2026 (amends the Code by adding Subtitle 5C. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE, Section 5C-113 Child Care Consumer Contract Protection). The legislation establishes consumer protection requirements for contracts between childcare providers and families in Prince George's County. The legislation is intended to promote fairness and transparency in childcare agreements by setting standards for contract terms, disclosures, and policies related to fees, deposits, and cancellations.

Caleb Callendar, Legislative and Budget Policy Analyst, provided a Fiscal Impact Statement, emphasizing that the Direct Impact of CB-018-2026 may generate additional revenue for the County if fines are imposed on childcare providers. These fines will only be imposed if a childcare provider is found to be in violation of the provision provided through the bill. Civil fines will not exceed \$1,000 per violation. The Indirect Impact of CB-018-2026 will protect County citizens who endure hardships that may prevent them from fulfilling their contractual obligations.

Council Chair Oriadha explained that this legislation was inspired by a real-life situation in her district involving a resident facing financial hardship. The resident, who was co-parenting, experienced a sudden loss of employment and was no longer able to afford a \$1,400 per month after-school program. Despite the financial hardship, the contract required payment of a year's tuition or to face legal action, leaving the family with no viable way to withdraw.

In response, the legislation seeks to ensure that contracts include clear hardship clauses. Specifically, it addresses circumstances such as the death of a guardian, loss of employment, or deportation, so that families facing these challenges are not unfairly bound to unaffordable financial obligations.

The Office of Human Rights provided written comments indicating that if the County Council enacts this bill, the OHR will receive a large number of claims that will need to be investigated. To investigate these claims, the OHR will need to increase its employee complement by at least 2 additional investigators. The estimated budget per investigator ranges from \$45,634.00 to \$98,438.00, totaling approximately \$91,268.00-\$196,876.00.

The Council Liaison expressed support on behalf of the County Executive.

The Office of Law indicated that CB-018-2026 was found to be legally sufficient.

Council Chair Oriadha introduced amendments on page 2, line 2, add the following text after the word “fees”: that include a provision for penalties or other payments beyond that for services rendered in the event of early withdrawal or termination.

An additional amendment on page 3, following line 24, add the following text: “The Office of Human Rights shall conduct the necessary outreach to ensure that childcare providers are aware of the requirements in this section.

Council Chair Oriadha made a motion to move favorably on the amendments, seconded by Vice Chair Olson. The motion carries 6-0.

The COW voted favorably 6-0 on CB-018-2026 as amended.