

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2025 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-125-2025
Draft No.: 2
Committee: Health, Human Services, and Public Safety
Date: November 6, 2025
Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: 4-0 Favorable (In favor Council Members Blegay, Fisher, Olson, and Watson)

The Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee convened on November 6, 2025, to consider CR-125-2025, Proposed Draft 2.

Staff provided an overview of the resolution, which establishes the creation of a Domestic Violence Workgroup tasked with reviewing, analyzing, and strengthening the county's prevention and response systems around domestic violence.

The Workgroup shall have one year to develop and submit a comprehensive strategic plan on preventing and responding to the domestic violence crisis in the county.

Staff provided an overview of the Workgroup composition, noting that it includes representatives from key county and state agencies, the school system, the legal and judicial community, and organizations addressing domestic violence and sexual assault.

The County Council Chair will appoint one Council Member, and the Chair will be selected by the Workgroup.

Comments were received from the Health Department in support of CR-125-2025. They also recommended including a representative from the Department of Family Services on the Workgroup, as that Department has a division dedicated to domestic violence prevention and response efforts.

The Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement indicates that adoption of CR-125-2025 will not have a direct physical impact on the county. It may, however, result in indirect benefits by reducing domestic violence and related issues, such as substance abuse and homelessness, easing demand on social services, and supporting the county's fiscal health.

Mr. Ramon Gonzalez, Legislative Attorney, reviewed the amendments in CR-125-2025 Proposed Draft 2. On page 2, line 24, after the word “Housing,” add “Community Development and on the same page, line 31, after the word “the,” add “University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center” for purposes of clarification.

In addition, there were additional members added to the Workgroup on page 3, lines 6 through 22, these include: A representatives from the Prince George’s County Association of Retailers, University of Maryland Medical Center’s The Bridge Program, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Prince George’s County Redevelopment Authority, Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Southern Management Companies, and the addition of a nonprofit organization, House of Ruth or their designee.

Council Member Fisher, sponsor, emphasized the urgent need for a countywide domestic violence strategy, noting that one in four residents is affected. The Workgroup will address all forms of domestic violence, promote interagency coordination, and include representatives from various sectors, including housing and education, to ensure a comprehensive approach. She highlighted the lack of a formal plan, the need for measurable outcomes, and her enthusiasm for developing a comprehensive strategy to support victims and prevent violence.

Council Member Watson emphasized that the Workgroup should address all forms of domestic violence, including mental and financial abuse, which are often overlooked. Council Member Fisher agreed and requested that language regarding financial hardship and victim support be added to proposed Draft 2.

Council Liaison Sonia Owens expressed the administration’s support.

Dinora Hernandez, from the Office of Law, confirmed that proposed Draft 2 was in proper legislative form and presented no legal impediments.

A motion to move favorably on CR-125-2025 Draft 2 as amended was made by Council Member Watson and seconded by Council Member Fisher. The motion carried 4-0.

The Committee then addressed the County Executive’s amendment. Council Member Olson moved to reconsider the previous motion, seconded by Vice Chair Fisher, to include a representative from the Department of Family Services.

The Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee voted favorably 4-0 to reconsider the previous motion for CR-125-2025 Draft 2 as amended.