

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2022 Legislative Session

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**Reference No.:** CB-034-2022

**Draft No.:** 2

**Committee:** PLANNING, HOUSING, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Date:** 6/2/2022

**Action:** FAV(A)

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### **REPORT:**

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 5-0 (In favor: Council Members Franklin, Glaros, Hawkins, Harrison, and Turner)

The Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee convened on June 2, 2022, to consider CB-34-2022. This legislation was transmitted by the County Executive for the Council's consideration. As presented on May 17, 2022, Draft-1 of the legislation amends various sections of the County Code to consolidate all Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) fees into one comprehensive Table of Fees. The PHED Committee Director summarized the purpose of the legislation and informed the Committee of written comments received on referral.

The Office of Law reviewed the CB-34-2022 as it was presented on May 17, 2022, and found it to be in proper legislative form. The Office of Law sees no legal impediments to its enactment. The Office of Audits and Investigations Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst submitted a June 1, 2022, Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement indicating enactment and approval of CB-34-2022 is not likely to have any fiscal impact on the County. The statement also provided the following analysis and issue for consideration:

### **Discussion/Policy Analysis:**

This bill seeks to amend each section of the Code that references "Table of Fees" to include language where the table is located in the code - specifically Division 14C, Section 2-253.63, Attachment A. There are approximately 17 sections in the code where "Table of Fees" is referenced. These fees are inclusive of fees ranging from building permits fees to businesses and licenses fees in the following Divisions: 14B, 12, 15, 17, 19, five (5), three (3), two (2). These amendments are primarily to make the Code more user-friendly.

### **Issue for Committee Consideration:**

It may be helpful to state in the various sections where "Table of Fees" is referenced that DPIE's County website also contains the "Table of Fees".

DPIE Director Melinda Bolling and Lori Parris, Senior Adviser to the Director, joined the meeting to provide additional background on the legislation and respond to Council Members' questions. Ms. Parris explained that the legislation is intended to consolidate fees in one place for ease of use by DPIE customers and staff, to ensure there are no oversights when fees are

amended, and to provide consistency between the Code and fee information provided on DPIE's website.

Amanda Denison, Associate County Attorney, informed the Committee of technical amendments to address minor discrepancies as follows:

- 1) Page 3 line 8. 5-163 is listed but not found in the text.
- 2) Page 3 line 9. 12-111 should read 12-111(b). 12-1211(c) should read 12-111.01 and 22-134 is listed but not found in the text.
- 3) Page 3 line 10. 32-120 (a) (3)-(6) is listed but there are items 1-7 shown in the text on pages 12-14.
- 4) Page 3 line 31. 2<sup>nd</sup> word should be if not in.
- 5) Page 10 Heading. Provisions is misspelled.

Ms. Denison informed the Committee that DPIE fees are found in two places, Table of Fees and within the Code, and therefore a Resolution is necessary to authorize a change in fees. After authorization, a Council Bill is required to change the Code. CB-34-2022 streamlines the process to remove the fees from the Code and consolidate in a Table of Fees which will only require a Resolution for future fee changes proposed by DPIE.

Council Member Glaros suggested that the DPIE website include the Table of Fees as suggested in the Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement and if possible, a hyperlink to the Code section to provide context and other information concerning the fee. DPIE Director Bolling indicated the Department's agreement to these recommendations.

Council Member Turner commented that the legislation streamlines the process for future changes to fees; however, additional clarification should be provided on whether amendments will be to a specific section in the Code or to the Table given the subject legislation includes Attachments A and B, and amendments to the Code do not include attachments.

Following discussion, Council Member Turner made a motion, seconded by Council Member Glaros, for a favorable recommendation on CB-34-2022 in anticipation of a DR-2 including technical amendments described by Ms. Denison and an amendment to include the recommendation described in the Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement to reference that DPIE's website also contains the "Table of Fees".