

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**2020 Legislative Session**

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**Reference No.:** CB-034-2020

**Draft No.:** 2

**Committee:** Committee of the Whole (C.O.W.)

**Date:** 10/15/2020

**Action:** FAV (A)

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**REPORT:**

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 10-0 (In Favor: Council Members Turner, Hawkins, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison, Ivey, Streeter and Taveras).

The Committee convened on October 8, 2020 and again on October 15, 2020, to discuss this legislation, which would expand the County's existing language access program that was created by CB-062-2017. Specifically, CB- 034-2020 would create a new position, Language Access Compliance Program Coordinator, and would also define the titles and roles of other key positions and establish an enforcement mechanism. As originally drafted, CB-034-2020 requires covered entities with major public contact to maintain a Language Access Contact. Many county agencies do not have such a position, so this will require the creation of new positions at these covered entities. The bill also requires the creation of three new positions at the Human Relations Commission, including the positions of Language Access Compliance Program Director, Language Access Compliance Monitor, and Language Access Compliance Program Analyst.

Acknowledging the importance of the purpose this legislation, the Committee also had to focus on the fiscal impact. The Executive Branch estimated that the bill would require at least 21 new positions. This was determined based on one new position at each of the 18 covered entities mentioned in the legislation and the three new positions that would be added by the Human Relations Commission. Compensation for all additional positions was estimated at \$2.23 million, with fringe benefits estimated at \$739,000. The County Executive's Office, as well as the Human Relations Commission, expressed opposition to the bill based on the fiscal impact.

The sponsor proposed amendments to reduce the costs, initially proposing a four-year phase-in of the hiring requirements, but subsequently proposed the removal of the requirement for new hires. The Draft 2 also removes the increased requirement for written translations, as well as the enforcement requirements (proposed sections 2-520 and 2-521).

After the discussion, the Committee voted favorably on CB-34-2020, as amended, by a vote of 10-0.