

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2025 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-68-2025

Draft No.: 1

Committee: GOFP

Date: October 9, 2025

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT: Committee Vote: Favorably as amended, 5-0 (Council Members Watson, Blegay, Burroughs, Oriadha and Dernoga)

The Prince George's County Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee convened on October 9, 2025 to consider CB-068-2025 AN ACT CONCERNING CODE OF ETHICS for the purpose of amending the Prince George's County Code of Ethics to prohibit former Council Members of Prince George's County from assisting or representing another party for compensation in a matter that is the subject of legislative action from the Prince George's County Government for three calendar years from the date the official leaves County office; prohibiting a former Council Member's compensated representation in certain matters in which they participated as a Council Member; and generally relating to the Prince George's County Code of Ethics. Council staff reviewed a revised draft that the committee considered during the meeting.

Ms. Terry Bell, representing the Office of Law, noted that the legislation had been reviewed and found to have no legal impediments to enactment.

Ms. Sonia Owens, representing the Office of the County Executive, expressed support for the legislation.

Council Member Fisher, the bill sponsor, addressed the committee and explained the drafting change in the bill's requirement to 2 years based on feedback from colleagues. She assured the committee that the bill is not geared toward any one individual and covers everyone, not just attorneys.

Council Member Dernoga expressed strong concern about the bill. As drafted, he questions some of the language in the bill for its intent.

Todd Turner, Executive Director of the Office of Ethics and Accountability, noted that his office had reviewed the first version and took no position. The bill was sent to the State, and they indicated that there is probably not an issue, considering the amendments. The technical change is consistent with the way the bill is drafted currently. This would not preclude a council member from suing the county.

Chair Burroughs thanked everyone for their work, asked clarifying questions and suggested amended language to ensure the bill does not have unintended consequences.

Amendments:

Strike the words: Whether and or not provision line 17.

Change back to one year.

After a motion from Council Vice-Chair Oriadha and a second from Committee Vice-Chair Member Blegay, the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee voted favorably on CB-68-2025 as amended, 5-0.