

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2024 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-095-2024

Draft No.: 2

Committee: Education & Workforce Development

Date: October 28, 2024

Action: FAVORABLE (A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable, as amended 5-0 (In favor: Committee Chair Harrison, Vice Chair Watson, Council Members Blegay, Hawkins, and Oriadha).

CR-095-2024 was introduced and referred to the Education and Workforce Development Committee on October 22, 2024. The Resolution encourages Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) to update their rules regarding cell phone use in the classroom.

Leroy Maddox, the legislative attorney, made non-substantive changes to the title and some terms in the Resolution.

During the Committee meeting, some council members voiced concerns about safety and parents' inability to contact their children in an emergency. The Office of Law stated that the County Council does not have direct authority to legislate on behalf of the Board of Education, and because the Resolution only encourages the school system to update regulations, it was in proper legislative order with no legal impediments to its enactment. David Noto, the policy analyst for the EWD Committee provided a policy analysis studying current regulations in the school system and other jurisdictions. Superintendent House and PGCPS staff noted that they were in the process of studying what other jurisdictions are doing to curtail the misuse of cell phones in the classroom and would look to update the existing policy in the future. Council members noted that because this Resolution only encourages PGCPS to update the current guidelines, they would vote in favor.

On October 28, 2024, the EWD Committee voted favorable, as amended: 5-0.