COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2026 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-053-2026
Proposed by Council Member Oriadha
Introduced by Council Member Oriadha
Co-Sponsors
Date of Introduction May 26, 2026

CHARTER AMENDMENT
RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning

Amendment of Section 813, Charter of Prince George's County

For the purpose of proposing an amendment to Section 813 of the Charter of Prince George's County to exempt from referendum taxes and fees imposed upon the operators of business uses deemed to have an adverse impact on community health, safety, and welfare, or County economic development; and generally relating to approval of new or additional taxes by referendum.

BY proposing an amendment to:

Section 813,
Charter of Prince George's County, Maryland.

SECTION 1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the following amendment to Section 813, Charter of Prince George's County, Maryland, is hereby proposed:

Section 813. - Approval of New or Additional Taxes by Referendum.

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 319 of this Charter, the County Council shall refer to a referendum of the qualified voters of the County, at the ensuing regular general election for members of the House of Representatives of the United States, any ordinance or resolution levying or charging the amount of any tax or fee in excess of the amount levied or charged in the preceding fiscal year. Each such ordinance or resolution shall be subject to a separate ballot question at the referendum. Any ordinance or resolution adopted by the County Council levying or charging any tax or fee which is required to be referred to referendum as provided in this Section shall contain a separate levy or charge in an amount equal to the amount of any tax or fee levied or charged in the preceding fiscal year. Such separate levy or charge shall be effective on the date provided in the ordinance or resolution approving it. Any increase in the amount of any tax or fee over and above the amount levied or charged in the preceding fiscal year shall be of no force or effect unless approved by a simple majority of voters voting on the ballot question at the referendum. Upon the approval of such ordinance or resolution by a simple majority of voters voting on the ballot question at the referendum, such ordinance or resolution shall take effect immediately.

(b) The County Executive and the County Council shall inform the general public through public hearings, government media and public print and telecommunication media of the County's intention to levy or charge a tax or fee in excess of the amount levied or charged in the preceding fiscal year, its projected fiscal impact upon taxpayers, and its intended purpose. The County Executive shall budget, and the County Council shall appropriate, the revenue necessary to permit such information to be provided to the general public in the manner prescribed herein.

(c) The language of the ballot question at the referendum describing any ordinance or resolution pursuant to this Section shall contain, but not be confined to:

(1) A description, in easy to understand language, of the kind or classification of the tax or fee proposed to be levied or charged;

(2) The amount of such tax or fee during the preceding fiscal year;

(3) The amount of any proposed increase; and

(4) The purpose for which such additional tax or fee is being levied or charged.

(d) (1) Fees relating to licenses and permits for the following shall be exempt from the requirements of this Section: street privileges, liquor, traders, hawkers and peddlers, refuse, taxicabs, solicitors, marriage, dance, bondsmen, animal registration, mechanics, electrical, building and grading, boiler, apartments, single family rental, sign, utility, towing facilities, heating and air conditioning repair, TV/radio repair facilities, palmists, burglar alarms, benefit performance and casino, sediment control, contractor board of registration, health, and secondhand dealers.

(2) Fees relating to charges for services for the following shall be exempt from the requirements of this Section: Sheriff's Department, Zoning Appeals Board, tax collection service, Driving While Intoxicated ("DWI"), inmate commissions, health, appearance and witness,

advance life support transport, tax sale cost recoveries, housing—state prisoners, housing—federal prisoners, contractual police services, boiler inspection, DWI work release, County sales, animal control, mosquito control, Circuit Court marriage ceremonies, State's Attorney incentive payments, casino night levies, cable franchises, and local 911.

(e) Taxes and fees imposed upon the operators of business uses deemed to have an adverse impact on community health, safety, and welfare or County economic development, including, but not limited to, consolidated storage uses and sellers of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products, shall be exempt from the requirements of this Section.

(f) This Section shall not be construed to amend or otherwise modify Section 812 hereof.

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SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provisions of this Resolution are hereby declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Resolution is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this Resolution, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Resolution of any such invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection, or section.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the County Executive for publication and that a copy also be transmitted to the Board of Supervisors of Elections for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters of this County at the 2026 General Election.

SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the question of adoption of this proposed Charter Amendment shall be submitted to the voters of the County at the General Election occurring on November 3, 2026, and shall be placed on the ballot in substantially the following form:

QUESTION

CHARTER AMENDMENT

HARMFUL BUSINESSES TAXES AND FEES

To allow the County to impose taxes and fees on the operators of businesses deemed to have an adverse impact on community health, safety, and welfare, or County economic development, including, but not limited to, tobacco stores, liquor stores, and self-storage, by removing the requirement that the public vote on such taxes and fees.

A vote for this measure will allow the County to impose taxes and fees, to the extent authorized by law, on operators of businesses that negatively impact the quality-of-life of County residents or economic development. A vote against this measure will prevent the County from imposing taxes and fees on businesses that negatively impact the quality-of-life of County residents or economic development.

For the Charter Amendment

Against the Charter Amendment

Adopted this 22nd day of June, 2026, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the full County Council.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: ________________________________

Krystal Oriadha
Chair

ATTEST:

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Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: ______________________ BY: ________________________________

Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive

KEY:
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.
Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.