

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2024 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-032-2024
Draft No.: 1
Committee: Health, Human Services, and Public Safety
Date: October 17, 2024
Action: FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable 5-0 (In favor Council Members: Fisher, Hawkins, Blegay, Olson, Watson)

The Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee convened on October 17, 2024, to consider CR-032-2024. Dinora Hernandez, Office of Law, expressed that the legislation was in proper legal form with no impediments. It would designate the body as a “public body” under the Maryland Open Meetings Act, requiring public access and meeting participation.

Sakinda Skinner, Council Liaison, stated that the County Executive’s Office has no formal position on the resolution, acknowledging previous conversations and stating that the council it creates already exists.

Vice-Chair Hawkins motioned for a favorable recommendation, seconded by Council Member Watson.

The Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee voted 5-0 favorable on CR-032-2024.

The Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee convened on June 20, 2024, to consider CR-032-2024.

CR-032-2024 supports the formation of a Criminal Justice Coordination Council and provides guidelines for the purpose and staffing composition of the potential Criminal Justice Coordination Council. The County Council supports the establishment of the Criminal Justice Coordination Council as an independent, stand-alone body because of its long-term impact on crime prevention. Neighboring jurisdictions have implemented the Criminal Justice Coordination Councils to facilitate their coordination efforts, resources, and knowledge efficiently.

Page 2, line 6 shows the composition of the Council.

Leroy Maddox, Legislative Attorney, indicated that this legislation is a vehicle to have Prince George's County at the table to work with other jurisdictions to address issues that concern the region and Prince George's in general. Other surrounding jurisdictions have coordinating councils, which will coordinate resources and ideas.

Sakinda Skinner, Council Liaison, Office of the County Executive, supports CR-032-2024, acknowledging the productive meetings with key officials, including DCAO Barry Stanton, Judge Alisa Hall-Johnson, and Judge Donna Cotton. While progress has been made, they noted that more work is needed to ensure the Criminal Justice Coordinator Council gains the recognition it deserves and can collaborate effectively with other jurisdictions' councils. The County Executive looks forward to expanding the council's efforts and continuing to work with the committee on this initiative.

The Office of Law finds it in proper legislative form and sees no impediments to its adoption.

Council Member Fisher, the bill sponsor, indicated that she did meet with DCAO Stanton and the judges. She suggested that more work is needed on the bill and requested additional time to address specific issues.

Chair Fisher requested a motion to hold the bill for continued study, which was made by Vice Chair Hawkins and seconded by Council Member Blegay. The motion passed 4-0.