



Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement

March 9, 2026

TO: Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment Committee

THRU: Lavinia Baxter 
Senior Budget and Policy Analysis

FROM: Isaiah Joseph 
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement
CB-003-2026 Illegal Vending Penalties and Removal of Goods

CB-003-2026 (proposed by Council Member Fisher)

Assigned to the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (TIEE) Committee.

AN ACT CONCERNING ILLEGAL VENDING PENALTIES AND REMOVAL OF GOODS for the purpose of strengthening enforcement against unlawful sidewalk and right-of-way vending within the County; prompting immediate removal of goods when vendors fail to comply; and increasing penalties for illegal vending.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: Potential increase in County expenditures related to enforcement, inspections, and removal of illegally vended goods.

Revenue: Potential to generate County revenue through increased fines and penalties for illegal vending violations.

Indirect Impact:

Potential positive economic effects through improved compliance, fair competition, and enhanced public safety in commercial areas.

Legislative Summary:

CB-003-2026¹, proposed and sponsored by Council Member Fisher, was presented on February 10, 2026, and referred to the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment Committee. If enacted, the bill would:

- Strengthen enforcement against illegal vending on sidewalks, roadways, and public rights-of-way.
 - Increase fines and penalties to deter repeat and unlawful vending activity.
 - Authorize immediate removal of goods and equipment for noncompliance.
 - Improve public safety by reducing traffic and pedestrian hazards.
 - Clarify enforcement authority for County inspectors and law enforcement.
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Resource Personnel:

- Ramon Gonzalez, Legislative Attorney
 - Shanika Griffith, Chief of Staff, District 2
 - Lori Parris, Chief of Staff, DPIE
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Current Law/Background:

Under current County law, sidewalk and right-of-way vending is regulated under Subtitle 5, Division 12 of the County Code.¹ The law prohibits selling goods to occupants of vehicles on roadways and public right-of-way and restricts vending in certain public areas, including near intersections, schools, and shopping centers. There are limited exceptions for specific items such as produce, flowers, baked goods, and certain ready-to-eat foods.

¹[CB-003-2026](#)

While enforcement authority does exist, the fines for violations are relatively modest (\$250 up to \$750) and have not always served as a strong deterrent. Although goods may be removed in certain cases, the overall penalty structure has remained limited, leading to continued concerns about traffic safety, pedestrian access, and unfair competition with licensed businesses operating within the law. Additionally, enforcement of vending, largely within the public right-of-way adjacent to roadways has been lackluster/inadequate.

Discussion/Policy Analysis

Provisions

If enacted, the proposed bill would amend Sections 5-193.01, 5-193.04, and 5-193.05 of the Prince George's County Code to expand and clarify enforcement tools available to the County for addressing illegal vending in public rights-of-way.

In Section 5-193.01(h), the bill increases misdemeanor penalties from the prior graduated fine structure to \$2,000 for a first offense and \$5,000 for a second offense, creating a substantially stronger deterrent. The addition of subsection 5-193.01(i) explicitly subjects violators to the removal of all goods and equipment pursuant to Section 5-193.05, reinforcing that noncompliance carries immediate operational consequences.

In Section 5-193.04(a), monetary fines for civil violations are increased from \$200 per violation to \$2,000 for first offenses and \$5,000 for subsequent offenses, and the provision clarifies that each separate day a violation remains uncorrected constitutes a distinct offense, allowing for cumulative enforcement. This shift strengthens the County's ability to address ongoing or repeat violations.

In Section 5-193.05(a), the bill strengthens removal authority by requiring vendors to immediately remove goods and equipment from the right-of-way, surrounding vicinity, and public sidewalks upon direction of a police officer or DPIE representative. If the vendor fails to comply, goods and equipment may be removed immediately and transported to a designated County facility.

This bill represents a broader strengthening of the County's enforcement posture toward unlawful right-of-way vending. It moves the framework from modest, incremental penalties to a more structured deterrence model designed to promote consistent compliance.

By clarifying enforcement authority and reinforcing consequences for noncompliance, the legislation prioritizes roadway safety, pedestrian access, and the orderly use of shared public space. It also promotes fairness by ensuring that vendors who operate outside the legal framework do not gain an advantage over licensed and compliant businesses.

Importantly, while enforcement authority is strengthened, the bill preserves citation procedures and the opportunity for a hearing, maintaining due process protections as accountability measures are enhanced. Overall, the amendments reflect a deliberate effort to create clearer expectations, stronger deterrence, and more predictable enforcement within the County.

Baltimore City

Baltimore City regulates street vending under Article 15 of the City Code (Licensing and Regulation), Subtitle 17, “Street Vendors,” as recodified through File 14-0305.² Under § 17-15, a person may not operate as a street vendor without first obtaining a license from the City.³ Licensing is therefore a basic requirement for lawful operation. In addition to licensing, Subtitle 17 sets location-based restrictions on where vending may occur. For example, § 17-37 (“All vendors – Near City market”) and § 17-39 (“All vendors – Near farmers’ market”) prohibit vendors from operating within specified distances of those locations, with limited exceptions.⁴

These rules are intended to address concerns about congestion, pedestrian safety, traffic flow, and competition with established businesses. Baltimore enforces these provisions through a civil citation system. File 14-0305 amended Article 1, § 40-14(e)(2) so that violations of Article 15, Subtitle 17 are subject to a standard \$500 civil fine per offense.⁵ This replaced older misdemeanor language with a consistent civil penalty structure, allowing authorized officials to issue citations without pursuing criminal prosecution.

For purposes of CB-003-2026, Baltimore City serves as a relevant Maryland comparison. Its use of a uniform \$500 civil penalty demonstrates that elevated, standardized fines and structured enforcement for unlawful street vending are already in use in a neighboring jurisdiction.

Policy Implementation Summary

DPIE will not be able to implement and provide a timeline until amendments are made to the proposed bill.

Fiscal Impact:

- *Direct Impact:*

If enacted, the bill has the potential to increase County revenue through substantially higher fines for illegal vending violations, particularly for repeat offenses. Revenue levels would depend on enforcement activity and compliance rates.

- *Indirect Impact:*

The adoption of CB-003-2026 is likely to have an indirect fiscal impact as the bill has the potential to strengthen the County’s economic environment by promoting fair competition, supporting

² [File 14-0305](#)

³ [Baltimore City § 17-15](#)

⁴ [Baltimore City Code § 17-37](#)

⁵ [Baltimore City Council File 14-0305](#)

compliant small businesses, improving public safety in commercial corridors, and reinforcing orderly use of public space.

Questions for Committee Consideration:

1. Does the County have sufficient staffing and operational capacity within DPIE and law enforcement to implement stronger penalties and removal authority effectively without diverting resources from other priorities?
 2. How can the County ensure that stronger enforcement deters unlawful vending while not disproportionately impacting lawful small vendors or individuals seeking legitimate economic opportunity?
 3. CB-053-2022 ('AN ACT CONCERNING FOOD TRUCK LOCATIONS') eliminated food-truck hubs and created a modern, flexible framework for mobile food vending in Prince George's County, effective December 27, 2022. Given that success, could the same approach to location permissions, standardized rules, and practical enforcement be applied to sidewalk and street vendors under CB-003-2026?
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Effective Date:

CB-003-2026 shall be effective forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

If you require additional information or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please call me.