

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: 10/24/95

Reference No.: CB-102-1995

Proposer: Estep

Draft No.: 4

Sponsors: Estep

Item Title: An Act concerning Burglar and Holdup Alarms to amend the County Code to establish a comprehensive program to address the rising number of false burglar alarms which are a tremendous drain on limited Police Department resources

Drafter: Barbara L. Holtz
Office of Law

Resource Personnel: Peter Lupo
Legislative Aide

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented:	9/26/95	Executive Action:	12/6/95	S
Committee Referral: (1)	9/26/95 PSFM	Effective Date:	6/30/96	
Committee Action: (1)	10/23/95 FAV(A)			
Date Introduced:	10/24/95			
Pub. Hearing Date: (1)	11/21/95 11:30 AM			

Council Action: (1) 11/21/95 ENACTED

Council Votes: AMc:A, DB:A, SD:A, JE:A, IG:A, WM:A, RVR:A, AS:A, MW:A

Pass/Fail: P

Remarks: _____

PUBLIC SAFETY & FISCAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT Date: 10/23/95

Committee Vote: Favorable with amendments, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Estep, Del Giudice, Maloney and Russell).

This will amend the County Code by establishing a program which will reduce the number of false alarms and increase the fees and penalties associated with the number of occurrences of false alarms. The County's Police Department responded to 403,751 calls for service in FY94; nearly 16% or 65,000 were for burglar alarms. Of this amount about 98% were false alarms. The Office of Management and Budget estimates that the implementation of CB-102-1995 would generate at least \$600,000 in licensing revenue based on the amount recovered in FY94 for \$183,814. Also,

additional revenue would be derived from the proposed user response fee which escalates with the frequency of occurrence. This would generate another \$1.2 million, with the bulk of the amount coming from commercial users.

This legislation was held in Committee on 10/10/95, to allow the parties time to discuss their concerns and to submit the appropriate amendments.

The Office of Business and Regulatory Affairs submitted a memo expressing concerns with the implementation of the program established by this legislation and the creation of a new unit within the Police Department.

The Committee approved the following amendments on 10/23/95.

1. Delete any registration or re-registration fee for residential applicants.
2. Add uncodified language requiring the Chief of Police to submit a written report to the Council on the viability of the alarm user permit system no later than March 1, 1997.

There could be some positive fiscal impact on the County as related to the increase in any fines or civil citations issued.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT
(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)**

The proposed legislation would amend the existing burglar alarm laws to increase the technical requirements for alarm systems, transfer regulatory authority from the Office of Business and Regulatory Affairs to a newly-created False Alarm Reduction Unit in the Police Department, increase fees and penalties, add imprisonment as punishment in the case of certain violations, provide for licensing of alarm businesses, provide for fees for false alarms and related regulations.

CODE INDEX TOPICS: