

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2025 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-099-2025

Draft No.: 2

Committee: Health, Human Services, and Public Safety

Date: October 16, 2025

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT:

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

The Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee met on October 16, 2025, to consider CR-099-2025.

Staff provided an overview of CR-099-2025, which addresses the issue of Black maternal health disparities within the county. The resolution calls for the creation of a comprehensive operational framework aimed at identifying and rectifying the systemic barriers contributing to adverse maternal health outcomes among Black women. It establishes Black Maternal Bill of Rights Checklist, the “Your Voice Matters” Maternal Experience Survey, Black Maternal Health Equity Task Force, and the A Black Maternal Health Fund Advisory Group.

Mr. David Noto, Legislative Budget & Policy Analyst, explained the Policy, Analysis, and Impact Statement, sharing maternal and infant health statistics. These include rates of prenatal care, pregnancy-related deaths, and infant mortality, broken down by race and county. The data highlights disparities and helps show where improvements in care are most needed.

Mr. Noto explained that CR-099-2025 builds on a previous law, CR-090-2023, which created the Black Maternal Health Fund. CR-099-2025 would set up an Advisory Group to make recommendations on how to use the fund's money. The money spent would depend on the group's decisions, so the direct financial impact is limited.

Council Vice Chair Oriadha, the bill sponsor, said she has been focusing on Black maternal and mental health for three years. As a new mother, she personally experienced pain being dismissed, which nearly cost her child's life, highlighting the need for better care in Prince George's County. Black women face a higher risk in childbirth and higher infant mortality, especially in her District. Council Vice Chair Oriadha expressed that she has secured funding for Black Maternal Health Fund and is pushing for a statewide Advisory Board to guide how resources are used, aiming to make childbirth safer for Black women in the county.

Leroy Maddox, Legislative Attorney, explained the technical changes to the resolution.

Dr. Diane Young, Associate Director, Family Health Services Division, Health Department, expressed strong support for CR-099-2025, noting that it addresses disparities in maternal health for Black women by protecting rights, tracking experiences, creating advisory groups, and partnering with providers to improve outcomes. She oversees programs ranging from maternal and child health to reproductive health, WIC, immunizations, and disease prevention. Dr. Young emphasized that Black women face the highest risks of maternal death, pregnancy complications, and mistreatment in healthcare, and that about 80% of these severe, often preventable outcomes could be avoided.

Sonia Owens, Council Liaison, Office of the County Executive, said the Administration supports the legislation and suggested the working group discuss funding once the program is implemented. She also recommended including someone from the Health Department, Dr. Young, on the working group.

Dinora Hernandez, Office of Law, stated that she reviewed Draft 2 and found it to be in proper legislative form.

The Council Vice Chair made a motion to favorably move CR-099-2025 Draft 2, which was seconded by Council Member Watson.

The Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee voted favorably 5-0 on CR-099-2025 Draft 2.