

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2020 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-018-2020

Draft No.: 1

Committee: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Date: 06/04/2020

Action: FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable (11–0) (In favor: Council Members Turner, Hawkins, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison, Ivey, Streeter, and Taveras).

The County Council convened as the Committee of the Whole on Thursday, June 4, 2020, to consider CB-18-2020. The Council's Zoning and Legislative Counsel summarized the legislation that was proposed by the County Executive, stating that the bill repeals, wholesale, Division 3 of Subtitle 14 of the County Code relating to Going Out of Business Sales, stating that the enactment of the legislation will cease the County's regulation and licensing of Going Out of Business Sales by retailers in the County.

The Office of Law submitted a memorandum on February 19, 2020, stating that the bill was in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its adoption.

The Council's Office of Audits and Investigations submitted a Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement dated June 2, 2020, stating that repealing the license requirement for Going Out of Business Sales would result in a slight positive fiscal impact on the County, as the costs of the licensing process for the County exceed the fee for the permit, which is \$10.00. Moreover, these licensing provisions were enacted in 1974 and have not had substantial amendments since that time.

Melinda Bolling, Director of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement, as well as Lori Parris and Heidi Stearlings of DPIE were present to answer questions from the Committee. Council Chair Turner inquired if there would be any negative result on the County as a result of repealing the licensing regime, particularly in light of the economic impact on businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Stearlings responded that there are separate State licensing provisions that would ensure the public safety and welfare, and that the repeal of County law would not disrupt any currently licensed business, and that many businesses conduct Going Out of Business Sales without a license, unaware of the current requirement for a specific license for said activity.

The Committee voted 11-0 for a favorable recommendation on CB-18-2020 as drafted.