

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2026 Legislative Session

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**Reference No.:** CB-017-2026

**Draft No.:** 2

**Committee:** COW

**Date:** 3/24/2026

**Action:** FAV(A)

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### REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as Amended, 7-2 (In favor: Council Members Oriadha, Olson, Adams-Stafford, Blegay, Burroughs, Dernoga, and Fisher; Opposed: Harrison and Ivey)

The Committee of the Whole convened on March 24, 2026, to discuss CB-17-2026, which establishes a \$5,000 Use & Occupancy (U&O) permit fee for “Special Quality of Life Impact Uses,” defined as:

Class A Beer, Wine, and Liquor Stores  
Tobacco Shops, Electronic Cigarette Shops, or Retail Tobacco Uses  
Regulated Firearms Dealers, and  
Consolidated Storage Uses

The bill also establishes a \$5,000 U&O permit renewal fee for the defined uses, payable twelve (12) months after the initial approval of the U&O permit, and payable on January 1, 2027, for all existing uses as of the effective date of the bill. Failure to comply with the bill’s fee requirements would result in the revocation of the U&O permit.

The Department of Permitting, Inspections, & Enforcement (DPIE) is authorized to collect U&O fees, to notify businesses subject to the bill’s requirements in writing, and to provide a 90-day grace period for late fee payments. DPIE shall increase the permit and renewal fees, respectively, on February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year by the greater of the average consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Area or 0%.

CB-17-2026 also requires the Office of Finance to establish and administer a Quality of Life Improvement Fund, a non-lapsing fund into which all fees are remitted by the specified Special Quality of Life Impact Uses. Fee payments deposited into this fund would not revert to the County’s General Fund at the end of each fiscal year. The Quality of Life Improvement Fund shall be used solely for programs, projects, and initiatives focused on: youth, childcare, and education; public health and senior wellness; public safety, pedestrian safety, and road and transit safety; and economic assistance for residents and businesses in socio-economically disadvantaged circumstances.

At the time of remittance, 10% of the funds shall be disbursed to the Prince George’s County Early Start Childcare Scholarship Fund, 5% shall be disbursed to the Childcare Facilities Loan program, and any other disbursements from the fund shall be approved by Council Resolution.

During the discussion, Committee staff summarized the bill’s provisions. The Policy Analysis & Fiscal Impact statement (PAFI) provides details on the potential positive fiscal impact and identifies points for consideration. The Office of Law indicated that the bill is in proper form and commented on the possibility of a legal challenge under the Equal Protection Clause. The Committee received testimony from Class A Beer, Wine, and Liquor licensees and a representative of the Maryland Self Storage Association, all of whom expressed opposition to the legislation. DPIE proposed amendments, and the County Executive’s Office offered support with these amendments.

The sponsor offered amendments, which:

- Add convenience stores with tobacco retail licenses to the types of uses subject to the new U&O Permit regime (page 3, lines 24-26)
- Provide that the administrative costs associated with operating quality of life improvement programs are a permissible use of the Quality of Life Improvement Fund (within the group of expenditures that must be proposed and approved by County Council resolution (page 5, lines 3-4)

The Committee requested additional information on:

- the number of self-storage facilities in the county
- The number of convenience stores that sell tobacco products
- The resident status of the impacted liquor store owners
- A demographic analysis of the employee base of the affected businesses
- Average annual revenue from the impacted businesses
- Community contributions from the impacted businesses
- Non-police service calls and inspections made on the impacted businesses

Staff is in the process of gathering this information.

After the discussion, the Committee of the Whole voted in favor of CB-17-2026 as amended by the sponsor, by a vote of 7-2.