



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Office of Audits and Investigations

June 4, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert J. Williams, Jr.
Council Administrator

William M. Hunt
Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: David H. Van Dyke *DHV*
County Auditor

FROM: Inez N. Claggett *INC*
Senior Legislative Auditor

RE: Fiscal Impact Statement
CB-006-2019 Code of Ethics

Legislative Summary

CB-006-2019 seeks to amend the County's Code of Ethics (the "Ethics Code") to conform to State Law.

Background/Current Law

The Ethics Code was established by Subtitle 2, Division 17 of the Prince George's County Code. The Ethics Code maintains the impartiality and independent judgement of public officials and employees, and safeguards the residents of the County from improper influence by requiring County elected officials, employees and individuals appointed to Boards and Commissions to disclose their financial affairs and to set minimum standards for their conduct of local business.

Assumptions and Methodology

The proposed legislation seeks to repeal and re-enact the current Ethics Code with enhancements which conform with amendments to legislation enacted during the 2017 Maryland General Assembly legislative session. These enhancements will prohibit the disclosure of certain personal information contained in a financial disclosure statement from public disclosure, will restrict the disclosure of indebtedness to entities doing business with the County to those which are doing business with the filer's agency, department, board, or commission, and will require disclosure of those entities for which a filer's spouse has engaged in lobbying activity. Proposed amendments will also restrict elected officials who leave office, from lobbying on matters they covered, for a period of one (1) year after leaving office, and

requires former registered lobbyists who become County Officials or employees, to refrain from participating on matters in which they lobbied previously for a period of one (1) year.

Proposed amendments to the Ethics Code shall be submitted to the State Commission for review and approval as required by State Law. Amendments proposed under this Bill, are pending approval by the State Ethics Commission.

Fiscal Impact

- Direct Impact

Enactment of CB-006-2019 should not have an adverse fiscal impact on the County.

- Indirect Impact

Enactment of CB-006-2019 may have an indirect fiscal impact to the County by enhancing the impartiality and independent judgement of County elected officials, employees, and individuals who are appointed to County Boards or Commissions.

Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget

No.

Effective Date

The proposed Bill 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.