

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2015 Legislative Session

Reference No.:	CB-74-2015
Draft No.:	2
Committee:	PUBLIC SAFETY AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT
Date:	October 7, 2015
Action:	FAVORABLE/AS AMENDED

REPORT: Committee Vote: **Favorable as Amended**, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Harrison Lehman, Taveras, and Turner)

CB-74-2015 establishes a property tax credit for real property used for urban agricultural purposes and provides for the amount, duration, and eligibility for the credit. The proposed legislation would allow a credit for ninety percent (90%) of the amount of property tax imposed on an eligible property after adjusting for other applicable tax credits, for a five year period. To qualify for the credit, property owners must complete the application provided by the Director of Finance, must own an eligible property, and must verify that their agricultural product values exceeds Five Thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) or more per tax year, unless a waiver is granted. Credits for this program shall not exceed One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) per fiscal year.

Representatives from the Soil Conservation District and the Office of Finance both contributed to the Committee discussion on CB-74-2015.

As a result of the Committee discussions concerns were still pending concerning compliance with zoning laws and the exact calculation of the tax credit based on the amount of property used for agricultural purposes. There was also raised the possibility of capping the amount of the tax credit given to an individual property owner. The Office of Law is to provide clarifying amendments.

The Office of Law has reviewed this legislation and finds it to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment.

The Office of Audits and Investigations reports that the enactment of CB-74-2015 could potentially have a negative fiscal impact on the County. The impact, which cannot be reasonably estimated, would be equal to the amount of urban agricultural tax credits approved, but no more than \$100,000, in each fiscal year.

After a discussion the Public Safety and Fiscal Management Committee voted 4-0 favorably as amended on the bill.