

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2024 Legislative Session

Reference No.:	CB-089-2024
Draft No.:	1
Committee:	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Date:	10/01/2024
Action:	FAVORABLE

REPORT: Committee Vote: Favorable, 9-0 (In favor: Chair Ivey, Council Members Blegay, Burroughs, Dernoga, Fisher, Harrison, Olson, Oriadha, and Watson)

The County Council convened as the Committee of the Whole on October 1, 2024, to consider CB-71-2024. The PHED Committee Director summarized the purpose of the legislation and informed the Committee of written comments received on referral. As presented on September 10, 2024, Draft-1 amends the Housing and Property Standards Code to permit the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) with the enhanced authority regarding the issuance, suspension, and revocation of rental licenses. The bill will permit DPIE to (1) to require proof of a license exemption for a landlord; (2) spend a license for a violation of Subtitle, 4 Subtitle 5, Subtitle 11, Subtitle 13, or Subtitle 27, of the Code; (3) deny the issuance of a rental license for failure to have a Use and Occupancy Permit; (4) increase the fines for violation of this Section; and (5) allow for the issuance of administrative citations and administrative hearings.

The Division on Budget and Policy provided a policy analysis stating the bill will have a favorable direct and indirect fiscal impact by increasing efficiency by creating more concrete requirements for issuing rental licenses and increasing penalties for violations, which will deter violations.

Ms. Dinora Hernandez, with the Office of Law, found the bill in proper legislative form and had no legal impediments to its enactment.

Ms. Sakinda Skinner, County Council Liaison with the County Executive's Office, requested a favorable recommendation on the legislation. Ms. Skinner also introduced Mr. Lamont Hinton, Deputy Director with DPIE to address any additional questions.

Council Member Olson, explained he appreciated the legislation and asked Deputy Director Hinton if this legislation would resolve concerns in his community?

Council Member Oriadha asked a question on whether there is a minimum penalty in the Code for violations?

Deputy Director Hinton explained that the Code explained the penalty for each violation is \$300.00 up to \$1,000.00.

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Chair Ivey asked if the penalty for a violation can go up to \$5,000.00 multiple times because of Maryland State law. Ms. Skinner explained it is her understanding that the penalty can go up to \$5,000.00 as prescribed in Maryland State law if there is no cap or prohibition.

Chair Ivey asked if the minimum penalty could be increased to deter violations. Council Member Olson said the current language still leaves flexibility instead of raising the minimum but understood the will of the County Council to deter repeated violators. Council Member Oriadha was opened to leaving the minimum at \$300.00 for now but if there are concerns in the future they can re-examine raising the minimum penalty for violators.

On motion of Council Member Fisher, seconded by Vice Chair Harrison, the Prince George's County Council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, voted 9-0 favorably on CB-089-2024.