

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2025 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-054-2025

Proposed by Council Member Oriadha

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Health Atlas Public Health Impacts

3 For the purpose of directing the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to
 4 coordinate with Prince George's County Health Department to develop a Health Atlas to further
 5 implement the Prince George's 2035 Approved General Plan (Plan 2035) and support data-
 6 driven policy making; directing the agencies to use the Health Atlas to analyze public health
 7 metrics in relationship with land uses to identify public health disparities, recommend equitable
 8 growth solutions and further enhance the quality of life for all residents of Prince George's
 9 County; directing the Department of Health to investigate the public health impact of
 10 convenience, tobacco and liquor stores on their surrounding communities.

11 WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Council is committed to an equitable approach to
 12 building healthy communities; and

13 WHEREAS, Plan 2035 is a comprehensive 20-year general plan that articulates a shared
 14 vision for making Prince George's County a leader in sustainable growth, vibrant neighborhoods,
 15 and a place where residents are healthy and engaged; and

16 WHEREAS, the Healthy Communities Element in Plan 2035 includes indicators and
 17 benchmarks that establish a collaborative framework to support how the region can address
 18 future challenges for maintaining healthy and thriving communities; and

19 WHEREAS, House Bill 286 (2025) included planning principles to support the creation of
 20 sustainable communities to foster a high quality of life for residents, especially in relationship to
 21 efficient use of land and transportation resources for more equitable communities, especially in
 22 areas historically underserved; and

1 WHEREAS, past land use decisions, especially in historically underserved areas, have
2 contributed to underdevelopment of healthy food environments and public health disparities; and

3 WHEREAS, the neighborhood food environments in Prince George's County and resulting
4 access to fresh, healthy foods vary by the geographic distribution of food stores, such as grocery
5 stores, convenience stores and fast-food restaurants; and

6 WHEREAS, social science research has examined the correlation between tobacco outlet
7 density and increased exposure to tobacco marketing, increased tobacco use among youth and
8 heavier smoking patterns among adults; and

9 WHEREAS, a 2019 study in the Journal of Urban Health identified "alcohol outlet clusters"
10 as an important social determinant of health in cities and noted that alcohol outlet density is
11 associated with higher levels of alcohol consumption, misuse and related harms; and

12 WHEREAS, there is a need for greater research on these potential environmental factors of
13 health disparities as a necessary step in data-driven policymaking and place-based interventions;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the County Council has identified the need for targeted research on the
16 specific public health impacts of the geographic distribution of certain businesses within the
17 county; and

18 WHEREAS, jurisdictions around the world have used tools such as a Health Atlas to
19 gather, study and share place-based data in support of informed policymaking and advocacy; and

20 WHEREAS, the initiation of a Health Atlas will help to elevate health as a priority for the
21 County's future growth and development and further support health and social equity through
22 programs, policies and plans as led by the Prince George's County Health Department through
23 PGC Health Zone, while partnering with agencies and community stakeholders, such as the Food
24 Equity Council, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Prince
25 George's County Department of Parks and Recreation; and

26 WHEREAS, the Health Atlas may also further understanding the implications of
27 geographic locations of fast-food restaurants and the proliferation of certain auto-oriented uses,
28 such as gas stations, drive-through businesses, etc., that may impact public health, while
29 reviewing land use inequities, especially in Rural and Agricultural Areas and Established
30 Communities (i.e. suburban areas), is in accordance with Healthy Communities Strategies 1.1,
31 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 3.2 and 4.1 of Plan 2035; and

1 WHEREAS, the Health Atlas will support the review of land use policies and regulations to
2 explore incentives and community benefits for creating more healthy, thriving communities,
3 including better access to urban agriculture and community gardens through locally-grown food,
4 more diverse dining options that have fresh, nutritious foods to meet the County's public health
5 goals, access to quality healthcare, while increasing access to public spaces to address lowering
6 obesity rates, in addition to other health factors, and

7 WHEREAS, Section 12-101 of the County Code places responsibility on the Board of
8 Health to oversee the health interests of County residents as well as review and make
9 recommendations regarding policies related to public health in the County; and

10 WHEREAS, in carrying out its health oversight duties, the same section of the County
11 Code authorizes the Board of Health to investigate and study the causes of diseases, epidemics
12 and nuisances affecting public health; and

13 WHEREAS, Section 3-306 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Health Article requires the
14 County's designated health officer to perform any investigation directed by the board of health
15 and submit appropriate reports to them; and

16 WHEREAS, the Annotated Code of Maryland, Health Article Section 3-202 authorizes
17 each county board of health to set fees or charges in connection with its rules and regulations;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Planning Department of the Maryland-National
20 Capital Park and Planning Commission, in partnership with the Prince George's County Health
21 Department, is best suited to undertake this study of public health and land use policies and
22 report back to the County Council.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
24 County, Maryland, that the Prince George's County Planning Department of the Maryland-
25 National Capital Park and Planning Commission is hereby requested to develop a Health Atlas
26 for Prince George's County and propose recommendations for developing healthy development
27 standards, incentives and further implementation of Healthy Communities Strategies as
28 identified in Plan 2035, by submitting a comprehensive report to the County Council on or
29 before June 30, 2026.

30 BE FURTHER IT RESOLVED that County Health Officer is hereby directed to utilize the
31 Health Atlas to conduct an investigation of the public health impact of convenience, tobacco and

1 liquor stores on their surrounding communities.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the investigation should identify any specific public
3 health impacts arising from the geographic distribution of such businesses throughout the County
4 as well as identify any health disparities which can be correlated to or caused by proximity to
5 such businesses.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the investigation should recommend policies or
7 services to be carried out by the Department of Health which have been proven successful to
8 mitigate or eliminate identified negative public health impacts or health disparities.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Health Officer shall submit to the County
10 Council the findings of this investigation and resulting recommendations no later than June 30,
11 2026.

12 Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Edward P. Burroughs III
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council