

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2024 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-92-2024

Draft No.: 2

Committee: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Date: 10/22/2024

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote, DR-2, Favorable as amended (In favor: Council Members Harrison, Blegay, Burroughs, Fisher, Olson, Oriadha, and Watson. Absent: Ivey and Hawkins. Abstain: Dernoga)

The purpose of emergency bill CB-92-2024 is to schedule County Council special primary elections and special general elections according to State law as requested by the State Board of Elections. As presented, it provides for at least one-hundred (100) days from the occurrence of a vacancy to a special primary election and at least one-hundred (100) days from a special primary election to a special general election.

The emergency is set forth as follows:

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that in accordance with the provisions of Section 317 of the Charter, the County Council hereby declares that a public emergency exists affecting the public health, safety, and welfare; said emergency being having the County special primary elections law and special general elections law comport with State election legal requirements; potential for uncertainty to result due to conflict with State law and anticipated multiple special elections in the near future; the probable multiple special elections beginning this calendar year which are anticipated to cost the County a significant amount of funds in an challenging budget year and anticipated upcoming challenging budget year; the prior costs for the 2022 special election in District 8 costing the County approximately \$660,000 and the 2024 special election for the at-large seat costing the County approximately \$2.1 million, not including the costs for the November 2024 general election; and the potential for a special election for a County Executive vacancy.

On 10/22/2024, the Committee of the Whole amended the bill. The amendment was to change the dates of the special primary election and the special general election. It provides for at least one-hundred (100) days but not more than one-hundred ten days (110) from the occurrence of a vacancy to a special primary election and at least one-hundred (100) days but not more than one-hundred ten days (110) from a special primary election to a special general election.

A motion was made by Council Member Oriadha, seconded by Council Member Fisher, that this Council Bill be amended. The motion carried by the following vote: In favor: Harrison, Blegay, Burroughs, Fisher, Olson, Oriadha and Watson. Absent: Ivey and Hawkins. Abstain: Dernoga

On 10/22/2024, the Committee of the Whole voted the bill favorably with amendments.

A motion was made by Council Member Fisher, seconded by Council Member Watson, that the Council Bill be voted favorably recommended with amendments. The motion carried by the following vote: In favor: Harrison, Blegay, Burroughs, Fisher, Olson, Oriadha and Watson. Absent: Ivey and Hawkins. Abstain: Dernoga