

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2025 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-072-2025

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Oriadha

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Building Code – Administrative Provisions – Restaurant Development and Acceleration

3 For the purpose of accelerating the development of sit-down restaurants in underserved areas of
4 Prince George's County; implementing a fast-track permitting concierge service for food service
5 facility applicants; providing for pre-approved restaurant buildout plans and expedited review of
6 permit plans; requiring annual program reporting; and generally relating to building permit
7 approvals.

8 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

9 SUBTITLE 4. BUILDING.

10 Section 4-345,

11 The Prince George's County Code

12 (2023 Edition; 2024 Supplement).

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
14 Maryland, that Section 4-345 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same is hereby
15 repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

16 SUBTITLE 4. BUILDING.

17 DIVISION 5. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

18 **Sec. 4-345. Requirements for Grading, Building Construction, Removal, etc., generally.**

19 * * * * *

20 (n) Restaurant Permitting Concierge Service.

21 (1) Purpose. The Prince George's County Council finds that:

(a) Restaurants provide important benefits to local communities, both as an employer and economic engine as well as critical gathering places that foster social interactions, cultural preservation and community vitality. Restaurants can become community hubs that enhance the social and economic fabric of a neighborhood.

(b) Entrepreneurs seeking to establish restaurants in the County encounter a complex and expensive permitting process, which act as a barrier to opening new restaurants, especially in traditionally underserved areas.

(c) A speedy and fair resolution of a restaurant permit application not only increases the opportunities for jobs, economic growth and revenue for essential government services but also encourages more and diverse restaurants to locate in our neighborhoods.

(d) Local jurisdictions across the country have made a dedicated permitting liaison one of the many solutions in their toolkit to improve permitting approval timelines and support key industries of growth.

(2) **Eligibility.** Building permit applicants proposing new food service facilities inside of the Capital Beltway shall be eligible to participate in the Restaurant Concierge Service program, subject to any condition set forth in regulations adopted by the Department, as described in Subsection (6) below.

(3) **Concierge Service.** The Director shall establish a Restaurant Permitting Concierge Service within the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement. This service will provide each eligible applicant with a dedicated liaison to facilitate the approval of necessary plans and permits by:

(a) Conducting a pre-application meeting to discuss the proposed project and what documents and fees will be required for the permit;

(b) Facilitating communication with all involved County agencies;

(c) Providing assistance with coordinating necessary inspections; and

(d) Monitor plan review progress and troubleshooting application delays.

(4) **Pre-approved Buildout Plans.** The Director shall publish sample drawings of food service facility floorplan layouts which demonstrate compliance with applicable mechanical, electrical, environmental and food safety requirements.

(a) **Illustrative Purposes.** These sample drawings are published solely for illustrative purposes and do not release the permit applicant from submitting drawings which are

certified by a Maryland Registered Professional Engineer or a Maryland Licensed Architect.

(b) **Expedited Review.** Applicants utilizing drawings published by the Director, which shall be recorded at the time of plan submittal, shall be eligible for expedited permit plan review. Upon an initial determination of application completeness by DPIE, an application approved for expedited review shall receive an initial decision no later than thirty (30) days from plan submission.

(5) **Fee Reduction.** Applicants participating in the Restaurant Permitting Concierge Service program shall be eligible for a reduction in associated permitting fees. The fee reduction shall be based on a method determined by the Director and published in this program's implementing regulations.

(6) **Implementing Regulations.** The County Executive shall adopt and publish regulations to implement this Section, consistent with all applicable County and State laws and regulations.

(7) **Program Reporting.** No later than August 1st of each year, the Department shall transmit to the County Council a report which describes for the previous fiscal year:

- (a) The number of participants in the Restaurant Permitting Concierge Program;
- (b) The number of participants who successfully reached permit approval;
- (c) The average time (in calendar days) from plan submission to approval; and
- (d) Program challenges and recommended improvements.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection, or section.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect ninety (90) calendar days after it becomes law.

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

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive

KEY:
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.
Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.

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