

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2017 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-104-2017

Draft No.: 3

Committee: PSFM

Date: 10/5/2017

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT: Favorable as amended, 5-0 In Favor: Council Members Glaros, Harrison, Lehman, Taveras, and Turner.

The Public Safety and Fiscal Management Committee convened on October 5, 2017, to consider CB-104-2017. The Council's Zoning and Legislative Counsel provided an overview of the bill and procedural history on the legislation. This bill will clarify the Council's intention in enacting the dance hall licensing requirements set forth in Subtitle 5 of the County Code. It provides a limited exemption for certain banquet halls with a certain liquor license that is valid and issued for property of a certain size with certain unique zoning classifications. Council Members Turner, one of the bill's sponsors, explained to the committee that the legislation is needed to guard against unintended consequences for existing uses that were not contemplated in the CB-18-2012, the initial dance hall licensing legislation, which was enacted in furtherance of the public health, safety, and welfare of County citizens and residents. Council Member Davis, co-sponsor of the bill, concurred that the bill is needed to address unintended consequences affecting businesses the County. The Office of Law provided comments on the legislation, noting that the bill was in proper legislative form but holds some level of potential for legal challenge. The Zoning and Legislative Counsel reviewed the procedural history of the bill, stating that at the time of presentation, the Council voted favorably on the Council floor to incorporate the text of an Amendment No. 1, which was based on new information that came to the attention of the bill's sponsors. During the work session, Counsel reviewed a Proposed DR-3 that makes certain clerical and syntax edits to the bill, on page 2, in lines 5–16.

Council Member Lehman stated that licensing requirements in the County Code have been effective in combating the issues of violence and dangerous conditions at dance halls in the County.

After further discussion and questions from members, the Public Safety and Fiscal Management committee voted CB-104-2017 out favorable as amended, 5-0.