

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2023 Legislative Session

Reference No.:	CB-046-2023
Draft No.:	1
Committee:	Government Operations and Fiscal Policy
Date:	04/27/2023
Action:	Favorable (A)

REPORT: Favorable as Amended: 3-0-1: Council Members Burroughs, Oriadha, and Ivey. Abstain: Fisher
Absent: Harrison.

The Prince George's County Council convened as the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee on Thursday, April 27, 2023, to consider CB-046-2023, The Healthy Restaurant Program. This legislative item seeks to encourage and expand healthier eating restaurant options within the County through free promotions and other economic incentives as well as to encourage County agencies to work cooperatively with restaurant owners to promote the availability of healthier food options.

Council Member Blegay proposed an amendment to offer a menu that has at least 30% healthy food options and one or more plant-based food options. Jo Saint George, a Healthy Food Advocate proposed a number of modifications to the bill.

Sakinda Skinner, Council Liaison, Office of the County Executive, advised the Office of County Executive, opposes the legislation because of the mandates and financial burden to County agencies and residents.

Erica Berry Wilson, Chief of Staff and DCAO / Health Human, Services, Office of the County Executive, also spoke in opposition of CB-046-2023 and advised the issue requires a mind shift of the citizens.

Council Members Blegay, Dernoga, Ivey all spoke in support of CB-046-2023. Chair Burroughs also spoke in favor of the Bill but asked the County Executive's Office to be prepared with solutions when they oppose legislation as written. The Committee approved Council Member Blegay's amendment.

Roger Banegas, Budget and Policy Analyst, Budget and Policy Analysis, provided the report for CB-046-2023 and advised the County could incur a significant adverse diverse fiscal impact as the voluntary program requires county agencies to significantly fund the program efforts. However, restaurant patrons within the County may experience a positive direct impact and the "Healthy Restaurants" option will expand businesses and increase the possibility of better dietary food experiences.

The Office of Law finds CB-046-2023 to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment.

After discussion, the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee voted CB-046-2023 out favorable as amended, 3-0.