

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2024 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-013-2024

Draft No.: 1

Committee: GOFP

Date: March 14, 2024

Action: FAV

REPORT: Committee Vote: Favorable 4-0-1 (Council Members Watson, Harrison, Dernoga, Franklin, Oriadha)

The Prince George's County Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee convened on March 14, 2024, to consider CR-013-2024, a resolution for the purpose of approving a one-cent increase in the charge for switched local exchange access service, commercial mobile radio service, and other 911 accessible services within Prince George's County. Authorization for this change emanates from the Public Safety Article section of the Annotated Code of Maryland, effective October 1, 2022, which authorized the County to increase the 911 charge to a level necessary to cover a County's projected operational costs for the fiscal year.

This legislation is the result of an audit of 911 fee revenue and the cost of providing the service. A deficit of 9 million dollars exists. A one cent (\$0.01) increase is necessary to cover the deficit, bringing the total to \$1.41. It is the policy of the county to raise the fee annually, if necessary, to maintain the revenue to pay for county 911 services fully. A public hearing is required prior to any change.

Roger Banegas, budget and policy analyst for the County Council, noted that the Office of Finance's projected fiscal impact of \$138,000 should be neutral as the increased fee should cover the costs.

After discussion, the Prince George's County Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee reported CR-13-2024 out favorably 4-0-1.