

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2024 Legislative Session

Reference No.:	CB-28-2024
Draft No.:	2
Committee:	PLANNING, HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Date:	4/15/2024
Action:	FAVORABLE (A)

REPORT: Committee Vote: Favorable, as amended, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Dernoga, Ivey, Franklin, and Hawkins)

The Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee convened on April 15, 2024, to consider CB-28-2024. The PHED Committee Director summarized the purpose of the legislation and informed the Committee of written comments received on referral. As presented on April 2, 2024, Draft 1 of the bill defines the use, "Cigar Club/Lounge" in the Zoning Ordinance, permits the use in the CN (Commercial, Neighborhood), CS (Commercial, Service), and CGO (Commercial, General, and Office) Zones of the County; and establishes regulations governing the use in furtherance of the public safety, health, and welfare of the residents of Prince George's County.

The bill sponsor, Council Member Hawkins, gave an overview of the bill's purpose and explained that the bill will provide the for additional business opportunities in the County within our commercial zones.

The Planning Board voted to take no position on the bill but transmitted an alternative draft to address technical drafting amendments. Mr. Chad Williams from the Planning Department explained and provided an overview of the technical amendments. The amendments were to add to the bill parking regulations and the Principal Uses Tables for the Plan Development and Overlay Zones and prohibit the use in those zones.

Council Member Dernoga asked if the Planning Board would oppose permitting the use in transit zones. Planning Department staff explained that adding transit district zones would be a policy decision of the County Council. The Committee discussed expanding the permissibility of the use.

Ms. Karen Zavakos, the County Council's Acting Associate County Council Administrator/Legislative Counsel, explained that the Committee would need to determine which transit district zones the use would be permissible.

After additional decisions, the Committee decided to move the bill favorably without adding transit district zones to the bill at this time.

Ms. Skinner from the County Executive's Office stated the County Executive takes no position on the bill.

Ms. Dinora Hernandez from the Office of Law asked to be made aware of amendments to the bill.

Mr. Chad Williams, Planning Department staff, asked that Subtitle 19 be amended to prevent the limitation on where cigar lounges will be permitted to operate. Ms. Karen Zavakos explained that changing Subtitle 19 was not necessary at this time.

After additional discussion, on a motion by Council Member Hawkins, seconded by Vice Chair Ivey, the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee voted favorably on CB-28-2024 with the discussed amendments provided in the alternative draft transmitted by the Planning Board.