

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2024 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-101-2024
Draft No.: 1
Committee: Committee of the Whole (COW)
Date: November 12, 2024
Action: FAV

REPORT:

COW Vote: 10-0 (In favor: Council Members Ivey, Harrison, Blegay, Burroughs, Dernoga, Fisher, Hawkins, Olson, Oriadha and Watson)

The COW convened on November 12, 2024, to consider CR-101-2024.

Staff provided an overview stating that the resolution establishes the Prince George's Cares and Health Reimbursement Workgroup to help develop a countywide health program that ensures access to primary care services for all Prince George's County residents who are not eligible for current health care programs. Page 3 details the workgroup's short-term and long-term goals, and the workgroup's composition is on page 4.

The Workgroup will meet twice monthly to develop the short-term goals and a funding plan in preparation for the fiscal year 2026 budget, beginning in January 2025. Recommendations must be submitted to the County Council by March 14, 2025.

Following these initial recommendations for the fiscal year 2026 budget, the Workgroup will meet monthly, or more often if needed, as determined by its leadership, to prepare a long-term plan for the Prince George's CARES program. This long-term plan will be delivered to the County Council by December 15, 2025.

Council Member Blegay, the sponsor, noted that she and Council Member Oriadha had previously proposed a bill with a similar objective using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Council Member Blegay expressed that they aimed to codify the program but encountered significant cost challenges. The Administration had identified a \$5 million cost associated with it. Council Member Blegay thanked Council Member Wanika Fisher for bringing everyone together to discuss solutions and expressed appreciation for the Administration's collaboration in creating a task force to quickly develop recommendations, ensuring solutions are ready for next year as the funding expires.

Council Member Fisher, in explaining her vote, expressed gratitude to Council Member Blegay, Dr. Levy and his team, and the Administration for their efforts on the resolution,

Sakinda Skinner, Council Liaison, Office of the County Executive, thanked Council Members Blegay and Oriadha for their work and for trusting the cost estimates, which led to establishing a Workgroup. The Administration supports this resolution.

The Office of Law finds it to be in proper legislative form and sees no legal impediments to its adoption.

The COW voted 10-0 favorably on CR-101-2024.