PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2026 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-085-2026

Draft No.: 2

Committee: Public Safety, Health, and Human Services

Date: October 6, 2026

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT: Committee Vote: Favorable as amended 4-0 (In favor Chair Fisher, Burroughs, Hunter and Oriadha). Absent: Blegay

The Prince George's County Council's Public Safety, Health and Human Services Committee convened in a special meeting on October 6, 2026, to consider CR-085-2026, A RESOLUTION CONCERNING AUTISM EQUITY IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Proposed Draft 2.

Council staff provided an overview of this legislation, which encourages a comprehensive initiative to advance autism equity in the County through inclusive public infrastructure and transparent data reporting. The resolution would encourage the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) to pilot a sensory-friendly zone at one library location by the end of calendar year 2027; recognize and encourage the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) existing practice of incorporating sensory elements into new and renovated playgrounds countywide, with M-NCPPC providing data on those playgrounds for the Dashboard; encourage the Health Department to develop and publish an Autism Services Dashboard; establish a nine-member Autism Equity Advisory Workgroup to monitor implementation and advise on continuous improvement; and encourage the County Executive to designate a lead agency to coordinate implementation within ninety (90) days of adoption. Kathy Canning, Legislative Attorney, presented an overview of the amendments reflected in Proposed Draft 2, which incorporated written input received from the Health Department, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), M-NCPPC, PGCMLS, Employ Prince George's, and the Office of Law.

David Noto, Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst, presented the Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement. Adoption of CR-085-2026 would require the creation of a new program in the Health Department to develop and publish the Autism Services Dashboard and would require PGCMLS to establish a sensory-friendly pilot zone at a County library. Direct costs are estimated at up to $286,000 initially ($5,000 one-time plus approximately $280,500 per year ongoing), based on estimates provided by the Health Department and PGCMLS, and are not currently appropriated in the FY 2027 budget. An earlier M-NCPPC playground pilot cost is no longer included because the resolution now recognizes M-NCPPC's existing practice rather than

funding a new pilot; the Office of Management and Budget's separate estimate predates that change and would require revision.

The Office of Law submitted a written legislative comment, which is reflected in Proposed Draft 2.

CR-085-2026 was proposed by Council Chair Oriadha and cosponsored by Council Members Adams, Burroughs, Hunter, and Olson. Council Chair Oriadha provided sponsor remarks. Angela Angel, County Liaison, Office of the County Executive, stated that the County Executive supports the resolution and requested one amendment, at page 2, line 25, adding language on requests for autism evaluations and services for PGCPS.

Representatives from the Health Department (Dr. Andrew P. Ballard, Chief of Public Health Policy and Innovation, and Dr. Denise Dunbar, Public Health Program Chief) and the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (Megan Sutherland, Deputy Library Director) were present. The Health Department expressed support for the resolution and outlined practical considerations related to implementation. The Library System expressed support for the sensory-friendly pilot and noted that the pilot site has not yet been identified, which is the next step.

After a motion by Council Member Oriadha and a second by Council Member Hunter, the Committee adopted the amendment by unanimous consent / by a vote of 4-0. After a motion by Council Member Hunter and a second by Council Member Oriadha, the Public Safety, Health and Human Services Committee voted CR-085-2026, Proposed Draft 2, as amended, out favorably, 4-0.