

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2018 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-12-2018

Draft No.: 2

Committee: TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Date: June 7, 2018

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT: June 7, 2018

Committee Vote: Favorable (A), 4-0 In favor: Council Members Turner, Toles, Lehman, and Taveras

Staff summarized the purpose of the legislation and written referral comments that were received. This legislation amends Subtitle 21. REFUSE of the County Code to expressly provide that hotels, motels and gas stations are subject to the County's recycling laws, provides specifications for recycling containers, expands access to the County recycling program, requires updates of commercial recycling plans, enhances the education of commercial recycling and County government recycling, and enhances the incentive for food scrap composting.

Council Member Glaros, the bill's sponsor, informed the committee of the purpose and background of the legislation indicating that the legislation will improve business recycling practices in the County by expanding the scope of commercial businesses.

Staff presented a proposed Draft 2 with added language missing from current law and added language pertaining to the recycling container being marked as recycling and provided options that the list of categories that can be recycled displayed on or near the container.

During the committee work session additional concerns were raised and amendments were made to address some of the concerns and are reflected in Draft 2: The concerns were relative to whether the recycling requirements are mandatory/volunteer, recycling goals, (county is already reporting a recycling rate of over 60%) and submittal of reports (number of reports and time frame for submittal).

Throughout the legislation, the language "tenants, or operators" was deleted. Also, prior to introduction, staff was requested to work with the bill sponsor to develop more detailed language as to how the following entities; Public Schools, Memorial Library, and the Department of Parks and Recreation, will increase their recycling efforts and reduce contribution to the waste stream.

The Department of Environment provided written proposed amendments that were considered during the work session and are reflected in Draft 2.

Page 4 – line 19 – (m) The Director shall include a report of the County Office Recycling Program (CORP) within the Annual Recycling Report detailing the amount of recyclables collected and compliance with the main components of the CORP program.

Page 4 – line 27 – (a) By July 1, [2014] 2019 the owners a of commercial and industrial properties shall provide an opportunity at their properties for all tenants and patrons and customers, if any to have access to exterior recycling collection receptacles and trash collection receptacles, including along store fronts, to voluntarily recycle designated recyclable materials.

By July 1, 2019, business entities shall provide recycling receptacles in the interior of their business as trash receptacles are provided, for customers to voluntarily recycle designated recyclable materials.

Top of Page 5, line 5 – property owners and or businesses [delete---or operators] shall submit...

Page 5, line 13 (b) By July 1, 2019 owners of commercial and industrial properties shall provide at least equally sized and equally convenient recycling containers to accompany each trash container on the exterior of the property, including along store fronts. By July 1, 2019 businesses shall provide at least equally sized and equally convenient recycling containers to accompany each trash container on the interior of their stores and offices. Recycling containers shall be clearly marked and labeled with a list of materials that can be recycled.

Page 5, line 6 shall submit to the Director for approval a plan by July 1, 2019, delete “and subsequently every two years”

Ron Wineholt, AOBA and Sydney Jacobs, Sierra Club spoke in support of CB-12-2018 indicating that their concerns had been addressed in working with the Bill sponsor.

The County Executive supports in its current form and the Office of Law finds it to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment.

The Office of Audits and Investigations determined that there should not be an adverse fiscal impact on the County if enacted.