

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2020 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-019-2020
Draft No.: 1
Committee: Committee of the Whole
Date: 6/4/2020
Action: FAV

REPORT: Favorable 11-0: Council Members Turner, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Harrison, Hawkins, Ivey, Harrison, Streeter and Taveras

The Prince George's County Council, met as the Committee of the Whole Thursday, June 4, 2020, to consider CB-019-2020, An Act Concerning Weapons. This legislation would remove the requirement that a person obtain a written permit from the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE).

This legislation was presented on May 18, 2020. CB-019-2020 would amend Sections 14-140(b) and 14-142(a) to remove all mention of DPIE from Subsection 14: Morals and Conduct, Division 6: Weapons. This amendment effectively eliminates the permit requirement as the responsibility is not transferred to another department.

Heidi Stearlings, Permits Supervisor, Permitting and Licensing Division of DPIE disclosed that the last application received was in September of 2012 which was prior to the inception of DPIE. That 2012 application was for a game of skill, a turkey shoot at an American Legion.

Council Member Dernoga inquired about the impact of CB-019-2020 on shooting ranges. Ms. Stearlings stated that Section 14-142 Subsection C, Title 3 was added in 1995 by former Councilmember Audrey Scott that removed ranges from the section of the code proposed to be repealed and that those provisions would remain the law. Council Member Dernoga agreed with that interpretation.

The Office of Audits and investigations found there is not likely to be a direct fiscal impact associated with CB-019-2020, as DPIE has not received any permit requests since it took over responsibility of the permits in 2014. In any event, the permit application fee is \$26.25, so any foregone fee revenue would be minimal.

The Office of Law finds CB-019-2020 to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments its adoption.

After discussion, the Committee of the Whole voted CB-019-2020 out favorable, 11-0.