



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of Audits and Investigations

July 13, 2020

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

TO: Robert J. Williams, Jr.
Council Administrator

William M. Hunt
Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: Josh Hamlin *JH*
Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

FROM: Kassandra Fields *Kef*
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Note
CR-062-2020, The Prince George's County Food Security Task Force

CB-062-2020

(Sponsored by: Councilmembers Glaros, Turner, Anderson-Walker, Hawkins, Ivey, Harrison, Davis, Taveras, Streeter, Dernoga and Franklin)

Assigned to the Committee of the Whole (COW)

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE for the purpose of establishing the Prince George's County Food Security Task Force to address issues related to the demand and supply of healthy food and areas with limited access to healthy food, food-health connections, school meals, and food insecurity in Prince George's County.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: Likely minimal increase.

Revenues: None.

Indirect Impact:

None.

Legislative Summary:

CR-62-2020, proposed by Councilmember Glaros and Council Chair Turner by request of the County Executive and sponsored by Councilmembers Anderson-Walker, Hawkins, Ivey, Harrison, Davis, Taveras, Streeter, Dernoga and Franklin, was presented to the County Council on June 23, 2020 and referred to the Committee of the Whole. CR-062-2020 would establish The Prince George's County Food Security Task Force to address issues related to the demand and supply of healthy food, areas with limited access to healthy food, food-health connections, school meals, and food security within the County.

Current Law/Background:

Section 506 of the Charter of Prince George's County, Maryland authorizes the County Council or the County Executive to appoint, for specific periods, temporary advisory boards who shall assist with the consideration and development of policies and/or programs.¹

Discussion/Policy Analysis:

The Prince George's County Planning Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission had previously commissioned a study to assess the County's food system. The purpose of which was to clearly identify challenges, along with opportunities inherent in the existing system and ultimately provide policy recommendations that would create and bolster a healthy, equitable, and sustainable structure. This would ensure all residents have access to nutritious, affordable, sustainably grown, safe and culturally appropriate food.

The COVID-19 pandemic has both emphasized the existing weaknesses and highlighted the need to prioritize this project. Bringing this to the forefront will help combat the inadequate access to nutritious food and food insecurity dilemma, which lead to chronic health conditions like obesity and diabetes. These issues are often considered to be the comorbidities of severe COVID-19 cases. The Task Force shall be comprised of twenty (20) members, as delineated in the proposed legislation. A Councilmember, appointed by the County Council Chair will serve as the Chair.

The legislation imposes a deadline of June 30, 2021 for the final report of this body.

Fiscal Impact:

Direct Impact

Adoption of CR-062-2020 should not have any adverse financial impact on the County. However, there may be minimal fiscal impact incurred by the County related to the services of the technical and administrative staff assigned to work with the Task Force.

¹https://library.municode.com/md/prince_george's_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTICHPRGECOMA_CHPRGECOMA_ARTVADOR_S506CIADBO

Indirect Impact

Adoption of CR-062-2020 should not have an adverse indirect fiscal impact on the County.

Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget:

No.

Issues for Committee Consideration:

1. *What is the term of the Task Force?*

Whilst the proposed legislation doesn't expressly specify the term of the Task Force, it implies that it sunsets upon receipt of the final report, which is due June 30, 2021. It would seem as if the members are tasked with an ambitious timeline. The report will possibly take a week or more to complete after all the work has been compiled. Perhaps the Council may wish to consider making the term a year upon adoption of the Resolution. In addition, perhaps some additional language may be inserted, in the event that the Task Force has additional work to complete, allowing it to be reauthorized at the completion of the year by Council Resolution, if necessary.

2. *Should the selection of the Vice Chair be set forth within the legislation?*

CR-62-2020 provides that the County Council appointee (by the Council Chair) shall serve as the Chair of the Task Force. The Council may wish to consider an additional provision relating to the selection of a Vice Chair, whether selected by the majority vote of the Body or otherwise.

3. *Should the Council provide a more detailed expectation of the item(s) to be addressed within the report? Should the Council consider a date for a preliminary report to determine if the expectations are being met and allow for more clarification and/or direction, if necessary, prior to the final report?*

While the legislation addresses the overall purpose and goal of the Task Force, it may be prudent to provide a detailed expectation of the deliverables, along with a timeline for progress reports and/or updates along the way, prior to the final report being transmitted and received by Council.

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation

The proposed Resolution shall be effective on the date of adoption.

If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please call me.