



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 1409 – Prince George's County - Marriage License Fees - Distribution of Proceeds (PG 411-20)

SPONSOR: Prince George's County Delegation

HEARING DATE: March 5, 2020

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT AS AMENDED

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1409**, which designates that the proceeds from marriage license fees in Prince George's County will no longer be distributed to the Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County. Instead, those proceeds will be distributed to Community Crisis Services, Inc. to continue the work of the Family Crisis Center. The bill, as amended by the Delegation, requires Community Crisis Services to send an annual report to the Delegation specifying customer surveys or customer feedback submitted to the Community Crisis Center. The amended bill will also make this an "emergency" bill to expedite this logistical step.

Prince George's County, through the Department of Family Services, established the Domestic Violence Community Grants Fund in March 2017 to award grants to nonprofit organizations that serve individuals and families affected by domestic violence. Those grants were distributed to assist individuals, families and survivors of domestic violence in achieving a greater level of independence, strengthen the family's ability to cope with healing, and rebuild the family unit by removing various challenges that inhibit self-sufficiency. The Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County was one of those organizations.

In the past, the Family Crisis Center used funds to launch an aggressive public awareness campaign to target areas in Prince George's County heavily impacted by domestic violence and developed its institute. The institute developed by the Family Crisis Center focuses on connecting domestic violence survivors to various critical resources. In an effort to continue the work of the Family Crisis Center, this

legislation represents the final logistical step required for Community Crisis Services to continue the work begun by the Family Crisis Center.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1409 AS AMENDED** by the Prince George's Delegation and asks for a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report.