

Council Bill 68-2026 Fiscal Analysis

Introduced: October 5, 2026

Fiscal Manager: Melinda Massey

Legislative Intent: CB68-2026 amends the [Howard County Public Ethics Law](#), specifically Sections [22.203 \(Administration\)](#) and [22.206 \(Financial disclosure statements\)](#).

CB68-2026 would establish confidentiality requirements for ethics complaints from the time a complaint is filed until the Ethics Commission issues a final finding. The bill would also prohibit the Commission, its staff, complainants, and respondents from disclosing complaint-related information.

ANALYSIS

Fiscal Impact:

The legislation is not expected to have a significant fiscal impact on the County's Operating budget.

Potential activities include:

- Updating Ethics Commission procedures.
- Revising forms, notices, or guidance provided to complainants and respondents.
- Updating financial disclosure instructions and procedures for candidates.

No additional full-time equivalent positions or significant operating expenditure are anticipated in the current fiscal year as a direct result of this legislation.

Budget Implications:

No additional appropriation is anticipated.

Other Notes:

n/a