

Council Resolution 122-2026 Fiscal Analysis

Introduced: July 6, 2026

Fiscal Manager: Melinda Massey

Legislative Intent: Council Resolution No. 122-2026 authorizes the Director of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to serve as the County Executive's formal designee the certifying officer for environmental review records in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Environmental Review Online System (HEROS).

ANALYSIS

Background:

Howard County is designated by HUD as an Urban County and receives annual funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). To remain eligible for these federal entitlement funds, the County must comply with HUD requirements, including completion and certification of environmental reviews for all HUD-assisted projects.

Since 2018, HUD has required Maryland jurisdictions to use the online HEROS platform to conduct and document environmental reviews. While the Director of HCD currently has access to review completed environmental assessments and prepare reports, HUD now requires a formal designation by the governing body before a local official can certify and sign environmental review records. This legislation proposes that the Director of HCD be designated certifying officer.

Fiscal Implications:

The resolution has no fiscal impact.

Other Notes:

This approval will improve administrative efficiency by allowing the HCD Director to complete required environmental review certifications directly in HEROS, helping ensure timely processing of HUD-funded projects and maintaining Howard County's eligibility for CDBG and HOME funding.