

Council Bill 15-2026 Fiscal Analysis

Introduced: February 2, 2026

Fiscal Manager: Yusef Ibrahim

Legislative Intent: Council Bill 15-2026 (ZRA 216) would amend Section 122.0 of the Howard County Zoning Regulations to add “Animal Hospitals, completely enclosed” as a permitted use in the M-1 (Manufacturing: Light) zoning district.

ANALYSIS

Fiscal Impact:

The proposed legislation is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the County’s operating or capital budgets. The amendment modifies the list of permitted uses within the M-1 zoning district and does not require the expansion of County services or changes to existing development review procedures. Implementation would occur through existing zoning and site development plan review processes administered by the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ). In addition, the Administration does not keep a list of veterinary clinics within the County’s boarders; however, an internet search shows approximately 20 veterinary hospitals in Howard County.

Based on the Administration’s responses, implementation can be absorbed by existing DPZ staff and does not create a need for additional resources. The bill is a zoning text amendment and would be implemented through existing zoning, permitting and inspection processes administered by DPZ and the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits. Any development activity would be undertaken by private property owners or tenants.

Budget Implications:

FY 2026 Operating Budget Line¹: Total DPZ General Fund Budget (\$8,785,752)

No changes to the FY 2026 Operating Budget are anticipated due to this bill. Existing Department of Planning and Zoning appropriations are sufficient to administer these updated zoning regulations.

Other Notes: None

¹ Page 159 in HC FY26 Approved Operating Budget