

Council Bill 12-2026 Fiscal Analysis

Introduced: February 2, 2026

Fiscal Manager: Melinda Massey

Legislative Intent: The proposed legislation seeks to utilize the authority granted under Maryland Real Property Article § 8-407 to extend the minimum eviction notice period from 6 days to 14 days. Additionally, it mandates the inclusion of a Howard County Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) website link in all eviction notices.

ANALYSIS

Fiscal Impact:

This proposed legislation seeks to expand the eviction notice period to 14 days, providing tenants with a critical window to engage with the Coordinated Entry System (CES), secure legal counsel, and manage the logistical and emotional burdens of relocation. The CES allows individuals being evicted to access support from county departments and non-profits. Furthermore, the bill mandates that landlords include information regarding the Office of Consumer Protection's resource website in their notices.

Budget Implications:

The projected cost to the OCP to update and maintain the required eviction resource website is limited to staff time needed to compile existing resources into a single location and to conduct annual reviews and updates¹. Additionally, the Department of Technology and Communication Services (DTCS) will be responsible for creating the webpage for the designated URL.

The following information from the Administration details the generation of fine revenue:

Category	Details
Time Period	FY2020–FY2025
Total Citations Issued	15 (Class A & B combined)
Total Fines Collected	\$1,300

These funds are deposited into OCO's program revenue fund and have primarily been used to offset budget shortfalls for outreach materials, such as flyers.

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- ¹ We have reached out the OCS to ask what impact Council Bill 12-2026 would have on staffing and are awaiting their response.

According to the Administration, future revenues are intended to support consumer education initiatives, including:

Scam Squad	A consumer protection task force focused on identifying, reporting, and preventing financial fraud and predatory schemes
Your CyberFeet:	A digital literacy and safety program designed to help residents protect their "digital footprint" and navigate the internet securely
HC Financial Empowerment Center	A resource providing professional, one-on-one financial counseling to help residents manage debt, increase savings, and improve credit

Other Notes:

None.