

Action

MEMORANDUM

July 16, 2010

TO: County Council

FROM: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Analyst *A. Mihill*

SUBJECT: **Action:** Expedited Bill 41-10, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council – Membership

Expedited Bill 41-10, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council – Membership, sponsored by Councilmembers Andrews, Trachtenberg, and Navarro, was introduced on June 29, 2010. A public hearing was held on July 13 at which Hannah Sassoon, Chair of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council testified in support of Bill 41-10.

Bill 41-10 would expand the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council by adding a student member. At the hearing, Ms. Sassoon argued that the Coordinating Council’s programs focused on youth, including their program to prevent teen dating violence, would benefit from student representation on the Coordinating Council. Ms. Sassoon stated that youth leaders are instrumental to youth participation in any prevention initiative and a youth representative could open up avenues of communication and social media outreach not currently utilized to reach County teens (©5). **Council staff recommends approval of Bill 41-10.**

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Expedited Bill No. 41-10
Concerning: Domestic Violence
Coordinating Council – Membership
Revised: 6/29/2010 Draft No. 2
Introduced: June 29, 2010
Expires: December 29, 2011
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: _____
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Councilmembers Andrews, Trachtenberg, and Navarro

AN EXPEDITED ACT to:

- (1) alter the membership on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council; and
- (2) generally amend the law establishing the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

By amending

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 2, Administration
Section 2-59

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

Sec. 1. Section 2-59 is amended as follows:

2-59. Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

* * *

(c) Composition and terms of members.

(1) The Coordinating Council has [16] 17 members.

* * *

(5) Subject to confirmation by the County Council, the County Executive must appoint a student member to serve a 1-year term on the Coordinating Council. The student member's term may be renewed for 1 additional year. The student member should be a high school junior or senior when initially appointed and must attend a public or private school in the County throughout the member's term.

* * *

Sec. 2. Expedited Effective Date.

The Council declares that this legislation is necessary for the immediate protection of the public interest. This Act takes effect on the date when it becomes law.

Approved:

Nancy Floreen, President, County Council

Date

Approved:

Isiah Leggett, County Executive

Date

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Expedited Bill 41-10, *Domestic Violence Coordinating Council – Membership*

DESCRIPTION: Expedited Bill 41-10 would alter the membership on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council by adding a student member to the Council; and generally amend the law establishing the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

PROBLEM: Although the Coordinating Council has efforts aimed at youth, there is no student representation on the Council.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: To obtain a youth's perspective.

COORDINATION: Maryland District Court, Montgomery County Circuit Court, State's Attorney for Montgomery County, County Sheriff, Department of Police, Department of Health and Human Services, Commission for Women, Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correction, and Montgomery County Board of Education.

FISCAL IMPACT: To be requested.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: To be requested.

EVALUATION: To be requested.

EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE: To be researched.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Analyst, (240) 777-7815.

APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES: None.

PENALTIES: N/A



OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Joseph F. Beach
Director

MEMORANDUM

July 12, 2010

TO: Nancy Floreen, President, County Council

FROM: Joseph F. Beach, Director

SUBJECT: Council Bill 41-10, Domestic Violence Coordinating Commission - Membership

2010 JUL 12 PM 12:13
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

The purpose of this memorandum is to transmit a fiscal and economic impact statement to the Council on the subject legislation.

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

The legislation would alter the membership on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Commission, adding a high school student member.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC SUMMARY

There would be no fiscal or economic impact to this legislation because it merely adds a student member to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Commission which would not require any additional resources.

The following contributed to and concurred with this analysis: Jo Anne Ricchiuti, Sheriff's Office, David Platt, Department of Finance, and Bruce Meier, Office of Management and Budget.

JFB:bm

- c: Kathleen Boucher, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
- Dee Gonzalez, Offices of the County Executive
- Jo Ann Ricchiuti, Sheriff's Office
- John Cuff, Office of Management and Budget
- Bruce Meier, Office of Management and Budget

Office of the Director

④

17-1

Testimony before the Montgomery County Council

Bill 41-10, *Domestic Violence Coordinating Council – Membership*

July 13, 2010

Good afternoon President Floreen and members of the County Council. I am Hannah Sassoon, Director of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center and Chair of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. On behalf of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) members I am here to support Bill 41-10, which seeks to amend the membership of the council by adding a 17th member, representing the youth of Montgomery County, to our council.

Since its establishment four years ago, the DVCC has been committed to reducing the incidence of domestic violence and creating a safe community for families to live free of abuse. This mission has been accomplished in many ways over the past few years due to the dedication of the members serving on the council and their desire to work collaboratively. Since the call by Congress to end teen dating violence was officially recognized in 2006, the DVCC has focused much attention on a prevention initiative aimed at the youth, with the specific goal of educating teens about unhealthy relationships and guiding them toward respectful relationships.

In order to enhance the DVCC's teen dating violence objectives and all initiatives aimed at the youth in our community the DVCC, in 2009, requested that a more formal connection exist between the DVCC and the Montgomery County Board of Education. With the approval of Bill 26-09, which authorized the addition of a MCPS BOE member to the DVCC, our teen dating violence prevention outreach and awareness efforts to MCPS facilitated the implementation of the Healthy Teen Dating Curriculum in the local schools.

This year, in an effort to further enhance our connection and outreach to Montgomery County youth, County Executive Leggett suggested the DVCC consider adding a youth member to its board. Recognizing that youth leaders are instrumental to youth participation in any prevention initiative, DVCC members echoed the same sentiment. Furthermore, members agreed that obtaining the youth perspective on projects intended for teens would be very important and that a youth member could open up avenues of communication and social media outreach not currently utilized to reach teens in the County.

As a final point, I'd like to share the troubling statistics released on June 10, 2009 by Liz Claiborne and the Family Violence Prevention Fund. The survey indicated that one in three teens in the United States report that they experience threats of physical or sexual violence. Almost one in two who are already involved in dating relationships report being controlled, threatened, and coerced to do things they did not want to. Unfortunately the youth in our community are not immune to dating violence; they are at risk. Intervention to reduce teen dating violence is necessary. The DVCC's goal is to reach out to teens and educate them about healthy relationships, identifying early signs of unhealthy relationships and accessing services. This objective could be successfully implemented with the involvement and perspective of a member from Montgomery County's youth community.

Thank you for your consideration.