

Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

Expedited OPT/SLT Bargaining Units – Pension Multiplier Bill 39-23: Corrections for Group E and J Members

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Expedited Bill 39-23 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as it is proposing the correction of a drafting error to retirement plans for certain employees.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF EXPEDITED BILL 39-23

In August 2023, the Council enacted Expedited Bill 20-23 "to implement provisions of the negotiated Memorandum of Agreement between the Montgomery County Government and the Municipal & County Government Employees Organization, UFCW, Local 1994 (MCGEO)."¹ The purpose of Bill 39-23 is to correct a drafting error in Expedited Bill 20-23. According to the County Executive, because of the drafting error, the final agreement between the County and MCGEO included an unintended pension multiplier change that "will result in a reduction in benefits that does not reflect that parties' intent."² If enacted, Bill 39-23 "would correct the pension multiplier for retirement Groups E and J in order to reflect the bargained-for intent" of Bill 20-23.³

Expedited Bill 39-23, OPT/SLT Bargaining Units – Pension Multiplier Corrections for Group E and J Members, was introduced by the Council on October 17, 2023.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As Expedited Bill 39-23 proposes the correction of a drafting error to retirement plans for certain County employees, OLO anticipates the bill will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change, including the reduction and/or sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions, community resilience, and adaptative capacity.

RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

The Climate Assessment Act requires OLO to offer recommendations, such as amendments or other measures to mitigate any anticipated negative climate impacts.⁴ OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Expedited Bill 39-23 is likely to have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change, including the reduction and/or sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions, community resilience, and adaptative capacity.

CAVEATS

OLO notes two caveats to this climate assessment. First, predicting the impacts of legislation upon climate change is a challenging analytical endeavor due to data limitations, uncertainty, and the broad, global nature of climate change. Second, the analysis performed here is intended to inform the legislative process, not determine whether the Council should enact legislation. Thus, any conclusion made in this statement does not represent OLO's endorsement of, or objection to, the bill under consideration.

PURPOSE OF CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS

The purpose of the Climate Assessments is to evaluate the anticipated impact of legislation on the County's contribution to addressing climate change. These climate assessments will provide the Council with a more thorough understanding of the potential climate impacts and implications of proposed legislation, at the County level. The scope of the Climate Assessments is limited to the County's contribution to addressing climate change, specifically upon the County's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and how actions suggested by legislation could help improve the County's adaptative capacity to climate change, and therefore, increase community resilience.

While co-benefits such as health and cost savings may be discussed, the focus is on how proposed County bills may impact GHG emissions and community resilience.

CONTRIBUTIONS

OLO staffer Kaitlyn Simmons drafted this assessment.

¹ [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 39-23](#), Montgomery County Council, Introduced October 17, 2023.

² Memorandum from County Executive to Council President, Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 39-23.

³ Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 39-23.

⁴ Bill 3-22, Legislative Branch – Climate Assessments – Required, Montgomery County Council, Effective date October 24, 2022