

Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

Bill 10-23: Health – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission – Established

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 10-23 will have no impact as the bill proposes the establishment of a commission with a purview outside of the County's contribution to addressing climate change.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 10-23

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development describes Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) as “differences that are usually present at birth and that uniquely affect the trajectory of the individual’s physical, intellectual, and/or emotional development.” IDD can affect multiple body parts or systems, such as the nervous system, sensory system, and metabolism. Examples of IDDs include cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and autism spectrum disorders.¹

If enacted, Bill 10-23 would establish an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission in the County. The intent of establishing the IDD Commission is “to advise the County Council and County Executive, and to better coordinate the provision of services to individuals with IDD and their families.”² If established, the IDD Commission would join the broader group of over 80 Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCCs) in the County.³

The IDD Commission established by the Bill would be comprised of 19 voting members and 6 non-voting members and have staff support from the Department of Health and Human Services. The Commission would be required to report to the County Council and County Executive annually. Prescribed responsibilities for the Commission range from instituting and conducting educational programs, to reviewing and reporting on current gaps in services. A more detailed list of responsibilities is available within the introduction staff report.⁴

Bill 10-23, Health – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission - Established, was introduced by the Council on February 14, 2023.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the bill proposes the establishment of a commission with a purview outside of the County's contribution to addressing climate change, OLO anticipates Bill 10-23 will have no impact, 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.⁵ OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Bill 10-23 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 “About Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDDs),” National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health. <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/idds/conditioninfo>

² Introduction Staff Report for Bill 10-23, Introduced February 14, 2023.

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2023/20230214/20230214_2C.pdf

³ Board, Committees, and Commissions, Office of the County Executive, Montgomery County, Maryland.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/list.html>

⁴ Introduction Staff Report for Bill 10-23

⁵ Bill 3-22, Legislative Branch – Climate Assessments – Required, Montgomery County Council, Effective date October 24, 2022