

# Climate Assessment

## Office of Legislative Oversight

### Expedited

### Bill 27-23: Police – Policing Advisory Commission – Repeal

#### SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Expedited Bill 27-23 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as the proposed repeal of the Policing Advisor Commission (PAC) as the functions of PAC do not impact the County's contribution to addressing climate change nor community climate resilience.

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#### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF EXPEDITED BILL 27-23

In recent years, the County has launched a variety of initiatives aimed at advancing best practices for racial equity and social justice in policing. These efforts have included the Reimagining Public Safety Initiative and Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, and enacting legislation for enhanced data collection by the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD), community-informed police training, reports on settlements, reporting requirements for internal affairs, and the formation of the civilian-led Policing Advisory Commission to advise the Council on policing matters.

The purpose of Bill 27-23 is to repeal the Policing Advisory Commission (PAC).<sup>1</sup> According to the Bill's sponsors, they endorse the repeal of the Commission because it duplicates the functions of the Police Accountability Board (PAB).<sup>2</sup> If enacted, Bill 27-23 would repeal the PAC effective August 1, 2023, allowing the Commission time to submit its annual report to the Council by July 31, 2023, as required.<sup>3</sup>

Expedited Bill 27-23, Police - Policing Advisory Commission – Repeal, was introduced by the County Council on May 25, 2023.<sup>4</sup>

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#### ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As Expedited Bill 27-23 is proposing to repeal a committee whose actions do not impact the County's contribution to addressing climate change, including the reduction and/or sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions, community climate resilience, and adaptative capacity, OLO anticipates Expedited Bill 27-23 will have no impact.

## RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

The Climate Assessment Act requires OLO to offer recommendations, such as amendments or other measures to mitigate any anticipated negative climate impacts.<sup>5</sup> OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Expedited Bill 27-23 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## CONTRIBUTIONS

OLO staffer Kaitlyn Simmons drafted this assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> Khandikile Sokoni, Memorandum to County Council, [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 27-23](#), May 22, 2023

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

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