

# Climate Assessment

## Office of Legislative Oversight

### Bill 36-23: Sale of Firearms or Ammunition – Suicide Awareness and Firearm Education (SAFE) Act

#### SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 36-23 will have no impact as the proposed change would require the development and distribution of literature about firearm safety and training, which does not impact the County's contribution to addressing climate change.

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#### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 36-23

Bill 36-23 would require the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to prepare and distribute literature to each gun shop in the County regarding:

- 1) gun and firearm safety;
- 2) gun and firearm training;
- 3) suicide prevention;
- 4) mental health; and
- 5) conflict resolution.<sup>1</sup>

The gun shop would be required to make literature visible and available at the point of sale and to distribute literature to each customer upon a sale of a gun, firearm, or fixed ammunition.<sup>2</sup>

Failure to display or distribute literature would be a Class A civil violation, which carries a maximum civil penalty of \$500 for an initial offense and \$750 for a repeat offense.<sup>3</sup> DHHS representatives would be authorized to issue a civil citation to an owner of a gun shop for noncompliance.<sup>4</sup>

The Council introduced Bill 36-23, Sale of Firearms or Ammunition – Suicide Awareness and Firearm Education (SAFE) Act, on September 26, 2023.

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#### ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the bill proposes to require the development and distribution of literature about firearm safety and training, OLO anticipates Bill 36-23 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 adaptive 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.<sup>5</sup> OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Bill 36-23 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 adaptive 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 adaptive 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> Introduction Staff Report on Bill 36-23, Sale of Firearms or Ammunition – Suicide Awareness and Firearm Education (SAFE) Act.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Montgomery County Code, Sec. 1-19, Fines and Penalties.

<sup>4</sup> Introduction Staff Report on Bill 36-23, Sale of Firearms or Ammunition – Suicide Awareness and Firearm Education (SAFE) Act.

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