

Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

Expedited OPT/SLT Bargaining Units – Pension and Bill 46-23: Retirement Adjustments

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Expedited Bill 46-23 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as it is proposing the extension of a deadline for a County retirement program.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF EXPEDITED BILL 46-23

In August 2023, Expedited Bill 20-23 took effect and made certain County employees eligible to participate in Group E and Group J retirement plans. The Bill established a 150 day deadline in which newly eligible employees would be able to elect to purchase credited years of service with their existing retirement plans.¹

Expedited Bill 46-23 would extend the deadline for eligible County employees to elect to purchase credited years of service with their existing retirement plans, from January 4, 2024 to August 7, 2024. This would allow a longer period of time for newly eligible employees to make the election.²

Expedited Bill 46-23, OPT/SLT Bargaining Units – Pension and Retirement Adjustments was introduced by the County Council on December 12, 2023.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the bill proposes the extension of a deadline for a County retirement program, OLO anticipates it 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.³ OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Expedited Bill 46-23 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.

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 46-23, OPT/SLT Bargaining Units - Pension and Retirement Adjustments](#), Montgomery County Council, Introduced December 12, 2023

² Ibid.

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