

# Climate Assessment

## Office of Legislative Oversight

### Bill 9-23: Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council – Rename

#### SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 9-23 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as it proposes a renaming to an existing council with a purview outside of the County's contribution to addressing climate change.

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#### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 9-23

The Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAAC) is comprised of experts and representatives with a range of viewpoints concerning alcohol and drug addiction in the County. AODAAC provides guidance in identifying alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment needs in the County and reviewing the County's efforts to address these needs.<sup>1</sup>

If enacted, Bill 9-23 would rename the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council to the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Council. The Bill also makes amendments to language throughout the County Code, replacing the word "abuse" with "addiction." The AODAAC has requested these changes to reduce the stigma associated with the word "abuse" and better reflect the need to provide access and support for persons afflicted with addictions.<sup>2</sup>

Bill 9-23, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council – Rename, was introduced by the Council on behalf of the County Executive on February 14, 2023.

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#### ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the bill proposes the renaming of an existing council with a purview outside of the County's contribution to addressing climate change, OLO anticipates Bill 9-23 will have no impact, 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>3</sup> OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Bill 9-23 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> [Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council Homepage, Department of Health and Human Services, Accessed 2/21/23](#)

<sup>2</sup> Introduction Staff Report for Bill 9-23, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council, Introduced February 14, 2023

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