

Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

Bill 6-24: Property Tax Credit – Disabled Veterans

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 6-24 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as it is proposing a tax credit that a small number of County residents qualify for.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 6-24

Under Section 9-625 of the Tax-Property Article of the Maryland Code, counties are authorized to establish a new property tax credit for severely disabled, honorably discharged veterans of limited income.¹

The goal of Bill 6-24 is to "lighten the property tax burden" for disabled veterans and their families.² The Bill would attempt to do so by establishing the property tax credit for disabled veterans authorized under state law. If enacted, individuals who own homes would be eligible to receive a property tax credit if they are "an honorably discharged veteran who is at least 50 percent disabled, as certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and whose federal adjusted gross income does not exceed \$100,000."³ The amount of the credit would be:

- 50% of the County property tax imposed on the dwelling house if the disabled veteran's service-connected disability rating is at least 75% but not more than 99%; or
- 25% of the County property tax imposed on the dwelling house if the disabled veteran's service-connected disability rating is at least 50% but not more than 74%.⁴

The property tax credit would be granted each year the individual remains eligible. In addition, the Bill would require the County to grant the same credit amount to the surviving spouse of a deceased disabled veteran.⁵

The Council introduced Bill 6-24, Property Tax Credit – Disabled Veterans, on March 5, 2024.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the Bill proposes a tax credit that a small number of County residents qualify for, OLO anticipates Bill 6-24 will have little to 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.⁶ OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Bill 6-24 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 ["Section 9-265 - Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans - Calculation - Application - Surviving Spouse,"](#) Maryland Code, Tax-Property § (2020).

² ["Councilmember Natali Fani-González to Introduce Bill to Reduce Property Taxes for Veterans with Severe Disabilities,"](#) Montgomery County Government, March 4, 2024.

³ ["Introduction Staff Report for Bill 6-24, Property Tax Credit - Disabled Veterans,"](#) Montgomery County Council, March 5, 2023.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Bill 3-22, Legislative Branch – Climate Assessments – Required, Montgomery County Council, Effective date October 24, 2022