

Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

EXPEDITED BILL 20-25: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN - DEADLINES

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Expedited Bill 20-25 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as it is proposing changes to the deadline for the Economic Development Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF EXPEDITED BILL 20-25

As Montgomery County's official economic development organization, the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC)—a nonprofit public-private partnership funded by the County—is required to submit a draft Economic Development Strategic Plan ("the Strategic Plan") to the Executive and the Council every four years, with the option to issue updates every two years.

The Strategic Plan aims to foster "a thriving and diversified economy; racial equity and social justice; greater innovation; and environmental sustainability."¹ It must include measures to assess the capacity of the County and its partners (i.e., Planning Board and the County's Workforce Development Organization) to promote economic development through:

- (1) Job creation;
- (2) Wage growth;
- (3) Identification and support of strategic industries;
- (4) Retention and attraction of new companies and employers;
- (5) Tax base growth;
- (6) Support for and growth of entrepreneurial activity; and
- (7) Additional initiatives to promote local economic development.²

Once MCEDC has submitted a draft Strategic Plan, the Executive may propose revisions, after which the Council must hold a public hearing and adopt the final Strategic Plan by resolution.³

Under current law, MCEDC is required to submit a draft Strategic Plan to the Executive and the Council by July 1, 2025. The Corporation has informed the Council that it is unable to meet this deadline.⁴

The purpose of Expedited Bill 20-25 is to provide the Corporation with additional time to develop the Strategic Plan. If enacted, it would amend the deadlines to the following:

- July 31, 2026 for the draft plan;
- January 15, 2027 for the Executive’s revised plan; and
- March 15, 2027 for the Council’s approved plan.⁵

The Council introduced Expedited Bill 20-25 on June 17, 2025.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the Bill proposes changes to the deadline for the Economic Development Strategic Plan, 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 adaptative 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 Expedited Bill 20-25 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 Montgomery County Code, “[Sec. 15A-4A. Economic Development Strategic Plan.](#)”

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ See memo from Christine Wellons, Chief Legislative Attorney, in Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 20-25, Economic Development Corporation – Economic Development Strategic Plan – Deadline, Montgomery County Council, June 17, 2025.

⁵ Ibid

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