

Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

EXPEDITED BILL 23-25: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COORDINATING ENTITY

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Expedited Bill 23-25 will have no impact as it is clarifying the duties and responsibilities of an entity whose operations do not impact the County's contribution to climate change.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF EXPEDITED BILL 23-25

In 2022, the County Council passed Bill 42-21.¹ This Bill created the non-profit Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity, which is currently the Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance (COA).² The Entity is comprised of 21 members who represent a range of stakeholders in early care and education (ECE). Members include parents, ECE providers, private employers and several County departments and agencies.³ The Entity is primarily responsible for developing recommendations to increase "availability of and access to high quality early care and education programs with particular attention to underrepresented and special populations."⁴

If enacted, Expedited Bill 23-25 would update the duties of the Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity.⁵ The Appendix includes current language of the Entity's duties and proposed language in Expedited Bill 23-25. Additionally, Expedited Bill 23-25 would:⁶

- Specify activities the Entity cannot engage in, such as providing ECE or awarding and/or funding grants;
- Clarify the Entity's members include two parents or guardians who qualify for a government benefit based on income; and
- Make changes to the data and recommendations the Entity must include in their annual report.

The Council introduced Expedited Bill 23-25 on June 17, 2025.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the Bill clarifies the duties and responsibilities of an entity whose operations do not impact the County's contribution to climate change, OLO anticipates the Bill will have no impact.

RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

The Climate Assessment Act requires OLO to offer recommendations, such as amendments or other measures to mitigate any anticipated negative climate impacts.⁷ OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Bill 23-25 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.

APPENDIX

Current and Proposed Language for Duties of Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity

Current Language

Duties. In developing an equitable system of high quality, accessible, sustainable early care and education and eliminating systemic racism and structures that created access barriers for vulnerable, racially and ethnically diverse populations, the Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity must:

- (1) develop recommendations for increasing availability of and access to high quality early care and education programs, with particular attention to underrepresented and special populations, including low-income children, families of children with special needs, and English language learners and with a focus on children from birth to 5 years old;
- (2) convene and solicit input from all ECE stakeholders to identify unmet needs and barriers to accessing quality ECE services, develop common goals and priorities for system expansion and improvement, and identify opportunities for and barriers to collaboration and coordination among stakeholder groups. The Entity must seek advice from the members of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council while the Entity develops final recommendations for realigning existing County committees and advisory groups that provide input into the early care and education system;
- (3) solicit board members through a community-based process involving parent groups and other advisory bodies. Create and/or maintain existing advisory bodies to ensure continuing direct input from a wide range of community perspectives;
- (4) engage and educate families and the wider community about the importance of high-quality early care and education programs and advocate at the federal, state, and local level for greater public and private investment in and improvements to the early care and education system;
- (5) research and facilitate innovative service models and strategies to improve the early care and education system and identify community needs through periodic mapping of early care and education services and resources and County-wide needs assessments;
- (6) secure and administer private-sector funding to support the early care and education system and manage and administer public funding that is directly appropriated to the Entity;
- (7) measure and report on the efforts to improve and expand the early care and education system with a focus on achieving tangible results that improve access to high-quality ECE across the County;
- (8) address current inequities imposing barriers to accessible high quality, affordable care for all communities; and
- (9) create, as a neutral convener, a common early childhood education agenda based on community consensus that all major stakeholders commit to and maintain a 360 degree view of all aspects of the County's early childhood education sector.

Proposed Language in Bill 23-25

Duties. The Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity must act as a neutral convenor of ECE stakeholders and in collaboration and consultation with ECE stakeholders:

- (1) conduct a County-wide needs assessment for ECE programs;
- (2) identify and analyze specific ECE needs through periodic mapping of ECE services and resources throughout the County;
- (3) research and evaluate strategies to strengthen and sustain the ECE system in the County;
- (4) analyze and recommend to the County Executive and County Council how to increase the quantity of, and equitable access to, high-quality ECE programs, including for children whose parents or guardians qualify for a government benefit based upon income, families of children with special needs, and English language learners;
- (5) create, publish, and periodically update a comprehensive common ECE agenda based upon the consensus of ECE stakeholders;
- (6) measure outcomes and progress towards the common agenda;
- (7) educate the public about the importance of high-quality ECE programs;
- (8) advocate at the federal, state, and local level for greater investment in and improvements to the ECE system; and
- (9) solicit and accept public and private funding to support the work of the Entity under this Section.

¹ [Bill 42-21 - Child Care – Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity – Established, Legislative Information Management System.](#)

² [Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance.](#)

³ [Montgomery County Code § 10A-12.](#)

⁴ [Action Staff Report for Bill 42-21, Montgomery County Council, Action February 15, 2022, PDF pg. 3.](#)

⁵ [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 23-25, Montgomery County Council, Introduced June 17, 2025.](#)

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Bill 3-22, Legislative Branch – Climate Assessments – Required, Montgomery County Council, Effective date October 24, 2022