

Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

EXPEDITED BILL 30-25: NOISE CONTROL – LEAF REMOVAL EQUIPMENT – ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Expedited Bill 30-25 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as it is proposing changes to enforcement procedures of the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF EXPEDITED BILL 30-25

In September 2023, the County Council passed Bill 18-22.¹ This Bill banned the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the County as of July 1, 2025. Bill 18-22 intended to decrease noise pollution and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.²

Currently, to enforce Bill 18-22, community members must submit a complaint that includes photographic evidence of the person violating the ban.³ The purpose of Expedited Bill 30-25 is to repeal this photographic evidence requirement. Instead, Bill 30-25 would allow a complaint on a violation of the ban by at least one witness.⁴

Given their overrepresentation among business owners and employees in the landscaping industry, Latinx community members are disproportionately impacted by enforcement of the gas-powered leaf blower ban.⁵ In July of this year, the Transportation and Environment Committee raised concerns that amid the current political climate – where Latinx community members are being targeted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) –⁶ the photo enforcement requirement could create a chilling effect on landscapers.^{7,8} As noted in the introduction staff report, “Bill 30-25 seeks to address the concerns and unintended consequences raised by the Committee.”⁹

The Council introduced Expedited Bill 30-25 on September 30, 2025.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the Bill proposes changes to the enforcement procedures of the County's ban on gas-powered leaf blowers, OLO anticipates Expedited Bill 30-25 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.¹⁰ OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Expedited Bill 30-25 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 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 adaptive 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 [Action Staff Report for Bill 18-22, Montgomery County Council, Vote on September 26, 2023.](#)

² ["Leaf Blowers," Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection.](#)

³ [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 30-25, Montgomery County Council, Introduced September 30, 2025, pg. 1.](#)

⁴ Ibid, pg. 2.

⁵ [RESJIS for Expedited Bill 19-25, Office of Legislative Oversight, July 14, 2025, pg. 2.](#)

⁶ [Antonio Planas, "It's about surviving": Hispanic businesses struggle with ICE and the economy," The Banner, October 13, 2025.](#)

⁷ Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 30-25, pg. 2.

⁸ [Maryam Shahzad, "Elrich Supports Enforcing Leaf Blower Ban Without Photos," Montgomery County Media, October 9, 2025.](#)

⁹ Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 30-25, pg. 2.

¹⁰ Bill 3-22, Legislative Branch – Climate Assessments – Required, Montgomery County Council, Effective date October 24, 2022