

Economic Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

Expedited Bill 27-20

Police – Regulations – Use of Force Policy

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) expects Expedited Bill 27-20 to have a minimal impact on the Montgomery County economy.

BACKGROUND

Drawing on laws enacted in California, San Francisco and Seattle, Expedited Bill 27-20 would seek to limit the “excessive use of force” by County police by changing the Montgomery County Police Department’s use of force directive. The Police Chief would be required to issue a use of force directive that, at a minimum, must include the following standards: (i) prohibit the use of deadly force, including neck and carotid restraints, except under particular circumstances; (ii) prohibit striking a restrained person; (iii) require officers “to stop, or attempt to stop, another officer who is using excessive force, violating the use of force policy, or a committing a crime”; and (iv) prohibit retaliation against any officer who reports their counterparts.¹

INFORMATION, ASSUMPTIONS and METHODOLOGIES

No methodologies were used in this statement. The assumptions underlying the claims made in the subsequent sections are based on the judgment of OLO staff.

VARIABLES

The variables that could affect the economic impacts of Expedited Bill 27-20 in the County are the following:

- Loss of income, medical costs, and other financial costs for individuals and households in the County impacted by use of force incidents
- Legal settlement amounts for individuals involved in use of force incidents
- Crime rates

¹ Montgomery County Council, Expedited Bill No. 27-20 Police – Regulations – Use of Force Policy, Introduced on June 16, 2020, Montgomery County, Maryland, 1-5.

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IMPACTS

Businesses, Non-Profits, Other Private Organizations

Workforce, operating costs, property values, capital investment, taxation policy, economic development, competitiveness, etc.

OLO believes that Expedited Bill 27-20 would have a minimal impact on private organizations in the County. OLO sees no direct connection between the bill and the Council's priority indicators, namely workforce, operating costs, property values, capital investment, taxation policy, economic development, and competitiveness.

Residents

Employment, property values, taxes paid, etc.

OLO believes that Expedited Bill 27-20 would have a minimal economic impact on County residents overall, as OLO sees no direct connection between the bill and employment, property values, and taxes paid.

WORKS CITED

Montgomery County Council. Bill No. 24-20 Administration – Police – Assistant Chiefs of Police. Montgomery County, Maryland.

CAVEATS

Two caveats to the economic analysis performed here should be noted. First, predicting the economic impacts of legislation is a challenging analytical endeavor due to data limitations, the multitude of causes of economic outcomes, economic shocks, uncertainty, and other factors. 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS

This economic impact statement was drafted by Stephen Roblin (OLO).