

Economic Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

BILL 47-20 **Ethics, Ethics Commission – Conflicts of Interest – Financial Disclosure – Amendments**

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) believes that enacting Bill 47-20 would have no significant economic impacts on private organizations or residents in the County.

BACKGROUND

Per the recommendations of the Montgomery County Ethics Commission, enacting Bill 47-20 would amend the law governing public ethics in seven ways.¹ According to the bill, enacting the legislation would:

- “require County employees to attend a public ethics training course;
 - amend the law governing appeals of a decision by the Ethics Commission;
 - amend the law governing the Ethics Commission’s resolution of complaints;
 - modify the restrictions on a public employee’s participation in certain matters;
 - repeal an exception to the restrictions on outside employment for an elected official;
 - clarify an exception to soliciting or accepting certain small gifts; [and]
 - modify the procedures for administering the financial disclosure process.”²
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METHODOLOGIES, ASSUMPTIONS, AND UNCERTAINTIES

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

Not applicable.

¹ Montgomery County Council, Bill 47-20, Ethics, Ethics Commission – Conflicts of Interest – Financial Disclosures – Amendments, Introduced on December 1, 2020 Montgomery County, Maryland.

² Ibid, 1.

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IMPACTS

WORKFORCE ▪ TAXATION POLICY ▪ PROPERTY VALUES ▪ INCOMES ▪ OPERATING COSTS ▪ PRIVATE SECTOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT ▪ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ▪ COMPETITIVENESS

Businesses, Non-Profits, Other Private Organizations

OLO believes that Bill 47-20 would have little to no economic impacts on private organizations in the County in terms of the Council's priority indicators, namely workforce, operating costs, capital investments, property values, taxation policy, economic development and competitiveness.³

Residents

OLO believes that Bill 47-20 would have no economic impacts on County residents in terms of the Council's priority indicators.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

OLO does not recommend any questions regarding the economic impacts of Bill 47-20 for the Council to consider.

WORKS CITED

Montgomery County Council. Bill 10-19, Legislative Branch – Economic Impact Statements – Amendments. Enacted on July 30, 2019. Montgomery County, Maryland.

Montgomery County Council. Bill 47-20. Ethics, Ethics Commission - Conflicts of Interest – Financial Disclosure – Amendments. Introduced on December 1, 2020. 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

Stephen Roblin (OLO) drafted this economic impact statement.

³ For the Council's priority indicators, see Montgomery County Council, Bill 10-19 Legislative Branch – Economic Impact Statements – Amendments, Enacted on July 30, 2019, Montgomery County, Maryland, 3.