

Economic Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

Bill 15-21

Solicitation of Vehicle Occupants in High-Speed Roadways – Permit Requirement

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) believes that enacting Bill 15-21 would have no impact on economic conditions in the County.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of Bill 15-21 is to reduce injuries and fatalities involving individuals who solicit from vehicles in certain roadways.¹ To this end, the bill would require an individual to attain a permit from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that authorizes the individual to stand in a roadway, median divider, or sidewalk to solicit from a vehicle occupant on a “high-speed roadway” (i.e., roadway with a speed limit greater than 25 miles per hour).² The bill would also condition the permit on the individual complying with specific safety rules when soliciting.³

METHODOLOGIES, ASSUMPTIONS, AND UNCERTAINTIES

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

VARIABLES

Not applicable

¹ Christine Wellons to County Council, Memorandum, Bill 15-21, Solicitation of Vehicle Occupants in High-Speed Roadways, April 15, 2020. See Introduction Staff Report, https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllms/DownloadFilePage?FileName=2706_1_14347_Bill_15-2021_Introduction_20210420.pdf.

² Montgomery County Council, Bill 15-21, Solicitation of Vehicle Occupants in High-Speed Roadways – Permit Requirement, Introduced on April 20, 2021. See Introduction Staff Report.

³ Ibid.

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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 Organization

OLO believes that Bill 15-21 would have no economic impacts on private organizations in the County in terms of the Council's priority indicators, namely business income, workforce, operating costs, capital investments, property values, taxation policy, economic development, and competitiveness.⁴

Residents

OLO does not believe that enacting Bill 15-21 would affect County residents in a way that would significantly impact the Council's priority indicators. It is worth noting that while the bill would require individuals to attain a permit for soliciting on high-speed roadways, there would be no fee associated with the permit.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Not applicable

WORKS CITED

Montgomery County Code. Sec. 2-81B. Economic Impact Statements.

Montgomery County Council. Bill 15-21, Solicitation of Vehicle Occupants in High-Speed Roadways – Permit Requirement. Introduced on April 20, 2021.

Wellons, Christine to County Council. Memorandum. Bill 15-21, Solicitation of Vehicle Occupants in High-Speed Roadways. April 15, 2020.

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) prepared this report.

⁴ For the Council's priority indicators, see Montgomery County Code, Sec. 2-81B. Economic Impact Statements, https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/montgomerycounty/latest/montgomeryco_md/0-0-0-80894.