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. 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). The bill would also condition the permit on the individual complying with specific safety rules when soliciting.

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

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3 Ibid.
Economic Impact Statement
Office of Legislative Oversight

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.  

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.

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.