

# Economic Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

## BILL 7-21

## Police – School Resource Office – Building Positive Law Enforcement Relationships Within Schools

### SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that enacting Bill 7-21 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County.

### BACKGROUND

The goal of Bill 7-21, introduced on January 19, 2021, is to improve school safety and build trust with law enforcement.<sup>1</sup> If enacted, the bill would authorize the Chief of Police to assign a law enforcement officer as a School Resource Officer (SRO) in a County school at the request of the Superintendent of Schools. The bill would also require enhanced training for SROs and require the County to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) that would govern the assignment of SROs.

### METHODOLOGIES, ASSUMPTIONS, AND UNCERTAINTIES

OLO does not anticipate that Bill 7-21 would have direct economic impacts on private organizations or residents in the County. However, OLO notes that higher levels of educational attainment are associated with lower levels of unemployment and higher median earnings.<sup>2</sup> Given the relationship between education and economic outcomes, any indirect economic impacts of Bill 7-21 would depend on its effect on educational attainment for students. In theory, increased training for SROs could affect graduation rates by enhancing school safety and/or reducing student exposure, particularly students of color and underserved youth, to the criminal justice system. However, OLO is unable to determine the direction or magnitude of these effects.

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

### VARIABLES

Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Montgomery County Council, Bill 7-21, Police – School Resource Officer – Building Positive Law Enforcement Relationships Within Schools, Introduced on January 19, 2021, Montgomery County, Maryland. See bill in Introduction Staff Report, [https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllms/DownloadFilePage?FileName=2698\\_1\\_14197\\_Bill\\_7-2021\\_Introduction\\_20210202.pdf](https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllms/DownloadFilePage?FileName=2698_1_14197_Bill_7-2021_Introduction_20210202.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Elka Torpey, “Education Pays,” U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 2019, [https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2019/data-on-display/education\\_pays.htm](https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2019/data-on-display/education_pays.htm).

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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 7-21 would have insignificant 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.<sup>3</sup>

### Residents

OLO believes that Bill 7-21 would have no economic impacts on County residents in terms of the Council's priority indicators.

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## QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Not applicable.

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## 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 7-21, Police – School Resource Officer – Building Positive Law Enforcement Relationships Within Schools. Introduced on January 19, 2021. Montgomery County, Maryland.

Torpey, Elka. "Education Pays." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. February 2019.

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## 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.

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## CONTRIBUTIONS

Stephen Roblin (OLO) prepared this report.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.