

Economic Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

Bill 17-22

Public Ethics Law – Amendments

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that enacting Bill 17-22 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County in terms of the Council’s priority indicators.

BACKGROUND

Per the request of the County Ethics Commission, Bill 17-22 would make the following changes to the County’s Public Ethics Law: “(1) define terms under the Public Ethics Law; (2) alter ethics requirements related to procurement; (3) prohibit retaliation against an individual for communicating with the Ethics Commission or participating in an investigation of a potential ethics violation; [and] (4) alter the required contents of financial disclosure statements.”¹

INFORMATION SOURCES, METHODOLOGIES, AND ASSUMPTIONS

Per Section 2-81B of the Montgomery County Code, the purpose of this Economic Impact Statement is to assess the impacts of Bill 17-22 on County-based private organizations and residents in terms of the Council’s priority economic indicators and whether the Bill would likely result in a net positive or negative impact on overall economic conditions in the County.² Because the proposed changes to the Public Ethics Law are mostly technical in nature, OLO anticipates that the Bill would have insignificant impacts on private organizations, residents, and overall economic conditions in the County in terms of the indicators prioritized by the Council.

VARIABLES

Not applicable

¹ [Bill 17-22](#).

² Montgomery County Code, [Sec. 2-81B](#).

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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

Not applicable

Residents

Not applicable

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Not applicable

WORKS CITED

Montgomery County Code. [Sec. 2-81B, Economic Impact Statements](#).

Montgomery County Council. [Bill 17-22, Public Ethics Law – Amendments](#). Introduced on June 21, 2022.

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.