

Economic Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

Expedited Bill 21-22

Weapons – Firearms In or Near Places of Public Assembly

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that enacting Bill 21-22 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County in terms of the Council's priority indicators.

BACKGROUND

The goal of Bill 21-22 is to protect places in or near places of public assembly from gun violence.¹ The Bill would attempt to achieve this goal by amending the law regarding restrictions against firearms in the County in two ways. First, it would "prohibit the possession of firearms in or near areas of public assembly." Second, it would "remove an exemption that currently allows individuals with certain handgun permits to possess weapons within 100 yards of a place of public assembly."² If enacted, the change in law would take effect on the date it becomes law.³

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 21-22 on County-based private organizations and residents in terms of the Council's priority economic indicators and assess whether the Bill would likely result in a net positive or negative impact on overall economic conditions in the County.⁴ It is doubtful that enacting Bill 21-22 would impact firearm sales from County-based gun shops. Moreover, while gun violence has direct and indirect economic costs for victims, perpetrators, and other stakeholders,⁵ it is beyond the scope of this analysis to assess the effectiveness of the restrictions in preventing gun violence in the future. Thus, OLO does not anticipate the changes to the law regarding restrictions against firearms in the County to have significant economic impacts on private organizations, residents, or overall conditions in the County.

VARIABLES

Not applicable

¹ [Legislative Request Report](#).

² [Bill 21-22](#).

³ Ibid.

⁴ Montgomery County Code, [Sec. 2-81B](#).

⁵ [A State-by-State Examination of the Economic Costs of Gun Violence](#); Follman et al, "[The True Cost of Gun Violence in America](#)."

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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

[A State-by-State Examination of the Economic Costs of Gun Violence](#). U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee, Democratic Staff. September 18, 2019.

Mark Follman, Julia Lurie, Jaeah Lee, and James West. "[The True Cost of Gun Violence in America](#)." *Mother Jones*. April 15, 2015.

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

Montgomery County Council. [Expedited Bill 21-22, Weapons – Firearms In or Near Places of Public Assembly](#). Introduced on July 12, 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.