

Economic Impact Statement

Montgomery County, Maryland

Bill 36-23

Sale of Firearms or Ammunition – Suicide Awareness and Firearm Education (SAFE) Act

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that enacting Bill 36-23 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County in terms of the Council's priority indicators.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 36-23

Bill 36-23 would require the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to prepare and distribute literature to each gun shop in the County regarding:

- (1) gun and firearm safety;
- (2) gun and firearm training;
- (3) suicide prevention;
- (4) mental health; and
- (5) conflict resolution.¹

The gun shop would be required to make the literature visible and available at the point of sale and to distribute the literature to each customer upon a sale of a gun, firearm, or fixed ammunition.²

Failure to display or display the literature would be a Class A civil violation, which carries a maximum civil penalty of \$500 for an initial offense and \$750 for a repeat offense.³ DHHS representatives would be authorized to issue a civil citation to an owner of a gun shop for noncompliance.⁴

The Council introduced Bill 36-23, Sale of Firearms or Ammunition – Suicide Awareness and Firearm Education (SAFE) Act, on September 26, 2023.

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 36-23 on County-based private organizations and residents in terms of the Council's priority economic

¹ Introduction Staff Report on Bill 36-23.

² Ibid.

³ Montgomery County Code, Sec. 1-19.

⁴ Introduction Staff Report on Bill 36-23.

indicators and whether the Bill would likely result in a net positive or negative impact on overall economic conditions in the County.⁵ Because DHHS would provide gun shops with the literature on gun safety, these shops should not incur operating expenses from printing materials. Therefore, OLO anticipates that the Bill would have an insignificant impact on private organizations, residents, and overall economic conditions in the County in terms of the Council's priority indicators.

VARIABLES

Not applicable

IMPACTS

WORKFORCE ▪ TAXATION POLICY ▪ PROPERTY VALUES ▪ INCOMES ▪ OPERATING COSTS ▪ PRIVATE SECTOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT ▪ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ▪ COMPETITIVENESS

Not applicable

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Not applicable

WORKS CITED

[Introduction Staff Report on Bill 36-23, Sale of Firearms or Ammunition – Suicide Awareness and Firearm Education \(SAFE\) Act](#), September 26, 2023.

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

Montgomery County Code, [Sec. 1-19, Fines and Penalties](#).

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.

⁵ Montgomery County Code, Sec. 2-81B.