

Economic Impact Statement

Montgomery County, Maryland

Bill 8-23

Boards, Committees, and Commissions – Open Meetings – Supplemental Requirements

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that enacting Bill 8-23 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County in terms of the Council's priority indicators.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 8-23

Montgomery County has over 80 boards, committees, and commissions (BCCs).¹ The County's BCCs are subject to both the state's Open Meeting Act and Article XI, Chapter 2 of the County Code.

The goal of Bill 8-23 is "to enhance existing open meetings and procedural requirements." The Bill seeks to do so by amending the County Code to further govern the operation of County BCCs. It would require BCCs to:

- publish notice of meetings within 5 business days after the meeting date has been determined, and at least 2 calendar days prior to the meeting;
- publish meeting agendas within 5 business days after they have been determined, and at least 2 calendar days prior to the meeting; and
- publish either a recording of the meeting or draft meeting minutes within 5 days after a meeting.

The County department or office assigned to staff a BCC would be required to ensure its compliance with the requirements of the legislation.²

Bill 8-23, Boards, Committees, and Commissions – Open Meetings – Supplemental Requirements, was introduced by the Council on February 14, 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 8-23 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.³ Based on the transparency measures prescribed in Bill 8-23 and a review of research on government

¹ Board, Committees, and Commissions, Office of the County Executive, Montgomery County, Maryland.
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/list.html>

² Introduction Staff Report for Bill 8-23, Introduced February 14, 2023.

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2023/20230214/20230214_2A.pdf

³ Montgomery County Code, [Sec. 2-81B](#).

transparency performed in a previous economic impact statement,⁴ OLO does not expect Bill 8-23 to affect County BCCs enough to generate significant economic impacts on residents, private organizations, or overall economic conditions in the County in terms of the indicators prioritized by the Council.

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

Cucciniello, Maria, Gregory A. Porumbescu, and Stephan Grimmelikhuijsen. "[25 Years of Transparency Research: Evidence and Future Directions](#)." *Public Administration Review* (2017): 32-44.

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

Montgomery County Council. Bill 8-23, Boards, Committees, and Commissions – Open Meetings – Supplemental Requirements, Introduced February 14, 2023.

Office of Legislative Oversight. [Economic Impact Statement: Bill 11-21](#).

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.

AUTHOR

Stephen Roblin (OLO) prepared this report.

⁴ See Cucciniello, et al, "[25 Years of Transparency Research](#)" and [Economic Impact Statement: Bill 11-21](#).