

Economic Impact Statement

Montgomery County, Maryland

Bill 34-25 – Legislative Process – Climate Assessments – Amendments

Summary

Bill 34-24 would revise requirements for Climate Assessments on Bills and Zoning Text Amendments by modifying the definitions of "community climate resilience" and "climate hazard," and removing the term "adaptive capacity" from the legislation. As required by Section 2-81B of the Montgomery County Code, OLO must prepare economic impact statement for every Bill introduced by the Council. However, since OLO is responsible for preparing climate assessments, the office cannot provide an independent assessment of the Bill in terms of its economic impacts.

Background and Purpose of Bill 34-25

Under Section 2-81D of the County Code, OLO must prepare a climate assessment for every Bill introduced by the Council. Likewise, the Planning Board is responsible for providing a climate assessment for each Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA), master plan, and master plan amendment considered by the District Council.¹

Each climate assessment must include an analysis of how the proposal would affect "community resilience and adaptive capacity" and recommend any amendments or actions that could mitigate negative climate impacts of the Bill or ZTA.²

Bill 34-24 would modify the contents of climate assessments required for Bills and ZTAs. Specifically, the Bill would:

- Define "community climate resilience" as "the sustained ability of a network of people to use available resources to withstand, respond, recover, and adapt to future climate hazards."
- Define "climate hazard" as "a natural disaster or environmental consequence of climate change, such as flooding, extreme temperatures, severe storms, heavy winds, or droughts."
- Delete from legislation the term "adaptive capacity" on grounds that is a subset of "community climate resilience."³

The Council introduced Bill 34-25 on November 4, 2025.

Information Sources, Methodologies, and Assumptions

As required by Section 2-81B of the Montgomery County Code, this Economic Impact Statement evaluates the impacts of Bills on residents and private organizations, using the Council's priority economic indicators as the measure. In doing so, it examines whether Bills would have a net positive or negative impact on overall economic conditions in the County.¹ However, analysis of bills affecting OLO's work program is not undertaken as part of this evaluation's responsibilities.

¹ Montgomery County Code, "[Sec. 2-81B, Economic Impact Statements](#)."

Variables

Not applicable

Impacts

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

Residents

Not applicable

Businesses, Non-Profits, Other Private Organizations

Not applicable

Net Impact

Not applicable

Discussion Items

Not applicable

Caveats

Two caveats to the economic impact analysis conducted 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, PhD (OLO) prepared this report.