

Economic Impact Statement

Montgomery County, Maryland

Expedited Bill 10-26, Arts and Humanities Council – Amendments

Summary

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that Expedited Bill 10-26 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County, as measured by the Council's priority economic indicators. The Bill would update the governance structure and responsibilities of the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County. The proposed changes would have no direct economic effects on non-profit arts and humanities organizations and individual artists and scholars in the County.

Background and Purpose of Expedited Bill 10-26

In 1999, the Council passed a law designating the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCMC) as the County's local arts agency. Through this designation, AHCMC is responsible for:¹

- Promoting creativity, scholarship, and professionalism in the arts and humanities;
- Providing and coordinating funding for the arts and humanities in the County; and
- Advising local, state, and federal agencies about financial and other needs of arts and humanities programs in the County.

Between FY18 and FY25, AHCMC distributed \$49 million in County funding to grants supporting non-profit arts and humanities organizations and individual artists and scholars in the County.²

The purpose of Expedited Bill 10-26 is to update the governance structure and responsibilities of AHCMC. If enacted, Expedited Bill 10-26 would:³

- Set the size, terms, and composition of AHCMC's board of directors and the duties of the board;
- Require annual reports on AHCMC's activities and on the status of [Public Arts Trust](#) on August 31 of every year;
- Set specific requirements for AHCMC's articles of incorporation and bylaws; and
- Require AHCMC to adopt and implement a RESJ policy that applies a RESJ lens into all aspects of its operations.

Expedited Bill 10-26 would also require AHCMC's designation to be renewed by the Council every five years. OLO would be required to evaluate AHCMC at least one year before each renewal.⁴ According to the County

¹ [Education and Culture Committee Staff Report, Discussion: Arts & Humanities](#), Montgomery County Council, July 22, 2019, pg. 2.

² Chitra Kalyandurg, [OLO Report 2025-13: Investing in the Arts: How County Government Funds Cultural Organizations and Public Arts Venues](#), Office of Legislative Oversight, November 4, 2025, pgs. 24-25.

³ Bill 10-26, [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 10-26](#), Montgomery County Council, Introduced February 10, 2026, pgs. (1)-(13).

⁴ *Ibid.*, pg. (3).

Executive, Expedited Bill 10-26 aims to ensure public investment in AHCMC “is supported by modernized governance provisions that reinforce accountability and maintain public confidence.”⁵

The Council introduced Expedited Bill 10-26 at the request of the County Executive on February 10, 2026.

Information Sources, Methodologies, and Assumptions

As required by Section 2-81B of the Montgomery County Code, this Economic Impact Statement evaluates the impacts of Expedited Bill 10-28 on residents and private organizations, using the Council’s priority economic indicators as the measure. In doing so, it examines whether the Bill would have a net positive or negative impact on overall economic conditions in the County.⁶

By updating the governance structure and responsibilities of AHCMC, the Bill would have no direct effects on non-profit arts and humanities organizations and individual artists and scholars 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

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.

⁵ Memo from County Executive to Council President, [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 10-26](#), pg. (15).

⁶ Montgomery County Code, [“Sec. 2-81B, Economic Impact Statements.”](#)