

# Economic Impact Statement

Montgomery County, Maryland

## Expedited Bill 6-26, Fire and Rescue Services - Emergency Medical Services Insurance Reimbursement Program - Use of Revenues

### Summary

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that Expedited Bill 6-26 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County, as measured by the Council's priority economic indicators. The Bill would allow the distribution of emergency medical services transport funds to representatives of local fire and rescue departments. This legislative action would not meaningfully affect economic conditions because it would codify existing practice. Additionally, revenue collected from this program imposes no additional cost or taxes on County residents.

### Background and Purpose of Expedited Bill 6-26

The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) provide emergency medical, fire and rescue services across the County through a combined career and volunteer system that operates out of 37 fire stations.<sup>1</sup> Nineteen of these stations are local fire and rescue departments (LFRD) staffed by volunteer firefighters.<sup>2</sup>

To provide ambulance transports – or emergency medical services transports (EMST) – MCFRS bills health insurance providers. EMST revenues are used to provide equipment, enhancement, and training for MCFRS and LFRDs. County law requires that 15 percent of net EMST revenues be allocated annually to support LFRDs.<sup>3</sup> Historically, the County has distributed these funds to the representative for the LFRDs, the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (MCFVRA).<sup>4,5</sup>

In 2025, the County's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) found that distributing EMST funds to the MCFVRA was inconsistent with County Code.<sup>6</sup> The purpose of Bill 6-26 is to update County Code to respond to the OIG's finding. If enacted, Bill 6-26 would explicitly allow the distribution of EMST funds to the LFRD representative. The funds could be used for the following purposes already established in County law:<sup>7</sup>

- Apparatus for LFRDs;
- Facilities for LFRDs;
- Training for volunteers;
- Gear and equipment for volunteers;

---

<sup>1</sup> ["Fire and Rescue Service,"](#) Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government.

<sup>2</sup> [Home](#), Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association.

<sup>3</sup> [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 6-26](#), Montgomery County Council, Introduced February 3, 2026, pgs. 1-2.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> ["Councilmembers Luedtke, Katz, and Mink Introduce Bill to Support Volunteer Firefighters,"](#) Press Release, Montgomery County Council, February 3, 2026.

<sup>6</sup> [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 6-26](#), pg. 2.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

- Administrative staff;
- Volunteer recruitment and retention; and
- Volunteer stand-by support.

The Council introduced Expedited Bill 6-26 on February 3, 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 6-26 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.<sup>8</sup>

The Bill would allow the distribution of emergency medical services transport funds to representatives of local fire and rescue departments. This legislative action would codify existing practice and revenue collected from this program imposes no additional cost or taxes on County residents. Therefore, OLO concludes that it would have no meaningful economic impacts on residents or local businesses.

## 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.

---

<sup>8</sup> Montgomery County Code, "[Sec. 2-81B, Economic Impact Statements.](#)"