

Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

EXPEDITED FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES- LENGTH OF SERVICE BILL 21-21: AWARDS PROGRAM FOR VOLUNTEERS- AMENDMENTS

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) expects Expedited Bill 21-21 to have a minimal impact on racial equity and social justice among the County residents.

BACKGROUND

On May 18, 2021, the Council introduced Expedited Bill 21-21 to modify financial benefits and service requirements for certain fire and rescue department volunteers in the County. It is estimated to cost the County about \$1.5 million.¹ If implemented, Bill 21-21 would make the following modifications to County Law:

- Increase the amount of the length of service benefits to certain local fire and rescue department volunteers;
 - Provide points for activities cancelled due to COVID-19 in the length of service benefits to certain local fire and rescue department volunteers; and
 - Generally amend the length of service benefits program for certain local fire and rescue department volunteers.²
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ANTICIPATED RESJ IMPACTS

OLO anticipates that Expedited Bill 21-21 will have little to no racial equity or social justice impact on the County Workforce or at-large in terms of modifying the benefits and service requirements for the local fire and rescue department volunteers.

CAVEATS

Two caveats to this RESJ impact statement should be noted. First, predicting the impact of legislation on racial equity and social justice is a challenging, analytical endeavor due to data limitations, uncertainty, and other factors. Second, this RESJ impact statement is intended to inform the legislative process rather than 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

OLO staffer Dr. Theo Holt drafted this RESJ impact statement.

¹ Montgomery County Council, Bill 21-21, Fire and Rescue Services-Length of Service Awards Program for Volunteers-Amendments, **introduced** May 18, 2021, Montgomery County, Maryland.

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² Ibid