

Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Impact Statement

EXPEDITED STREETS AND ROADS-PERMIT TO OBSTRUCT PUBLIC BILL 13-21: RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND FRANCHISING- AMENDMENTS

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) expects Bill 13-21 to have a minimal impact on racial equity and social justice in the County.

BACKGROUND

The County Council introduced Expedited Bill 13-21 on March 16, 2021. The bill aims to streamline certain permitting services in the County for residential uses. If enacted, the bill would:

- Expand the authority of the Department of Permitting Services to issue permits for right-of-way occupations;
 - Require a permittee to execute a certain agreement for private installation of non-commercial structure that are accessory to residential use in the public rights of way;
 - Clarify the exemption of “franchise” requirements; and
 - Generally amend the law regarding permits to obstruct public right-of-way.¹
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ANTICIPATED RESJ IMPACTS

Since Expedited Bill 13-21 aims to enhance the current authority of the Department of Permitting Services for residential uses and not alter its overall goals, OLO anticipates that the expedited bill would have a minimal impact on racial equity and social justice in the County. No changes in RESJ for residents in the County are anticipated under Expedited Bill 13-21.

CAVEATS

Two caveats to this racial equity and social justice 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 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, Performance Management and Data Analyst, drafted this racial equity and social justice impact statement.

RESJ Impact Statement

¹ Montgomery County Council, Bill 13-21, Streets and Roads-Permit to Obstruct Public Rights-of-Way and Franchising-Amendments, Introduced on March 16, 2021, Montgomery County, Maryland.