

Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

BILL 5-22: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION — BOARD OF DIRECTORS — MEMBERSHIP

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that Bill 5-22 will have little to no impact on racial equity and social justice in the County.

PURPOSE OF RESJ IMPACT STATEMENTS

The purpose of racial equity and social justice (RESJ) impact statements is to evaluate the anticipated impact of legislation on racial equity and social justice in the County. Racial equity and social justice refer to a **process** that focuses on centering the needs of communities of color and low-income communities with a **goal** of eliminating racial and social inequities.¹ Achieving racial equity and social justice usually requires seeing, thinking, and working differently to address the racial and social harms that have caused racial and social inequities.²

PURPOSE OF BILL 5-22

The purpose of Bill 5-22 is to expand the number of voting members of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) from 11 to 13 members and add the past chair of the MCEDC and Chief Executive Officer of the County's Workforce Development Board as non-voting members.³ Bill 5-22 would also remove a member of the Workforce Development Board as a non-voting MCEDC Board member. These changes will enable the current chair to remain on the Board and add two new members to overlap with current members, thus supporting the continuity and transfer of institutional knowledge among Board members. Bill 5-22 was introduced to the Council on March 15, 2022.⁴

ANTICIPATED RESJ IMPACTS

OLO anticipates that expanding and modifying the membership of the MCEDC Board will have little to no impact on racial and social inequities in Montgomery County relative to economic development.

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 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 Elaine Bonner-Tompkins, Senior Legislative Analyst, drafted this RESJ impact statement.

RESJ Impact Statement

Bill 5-22

¹ Definition of racial equity and social justice adopted from “Applying a Racial Equity Lens into Federal Nutrition Programs” by Marlysa Gamblin, et.al. Bread for the World, and from Racial Equity Tools <https://www.racialequitytools.org/glossary>

² Ibid

³ Montgomery County Council, Bill 5-22, Economic Development Corporation – Board of Directors – Membership, Introduced March 15, 2022

⁴ Christine Wellons memorandum to County Council, Bill 5-22, Economic Development Corporation – Board of Directors – Membership, March 9, 2022