

Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

EXPEDITED BILL 31-23: TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Expedited Bill 31-23 will have little to no impact on racial equity and social justice (RESJ) in the County.

PURPOSE OF RESJ IMPACT STATEMENTS

The purpose of RESJ impact statements (RESJIS) 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, leadership, and power 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 EXPEDITED BILL 31-23

The purpose of Expedited Bill 31-23 is to correct various “technical, typographical, grammatical, reference, and codification errors in, and make stylistic, clarifying, and conforming amendments to various provisions of County law.”³ The County Council periodically enacts a technical corrections bill to fix typographical and stylistic errors in County laws.⁴

The Council introduced Expedited Bill 31-23, Technical Corrections, on June 20, 2023.

ANTICIPATED RESJ IMPACTS

OLO does not anticipate a racial equity and social justice impact for Expedited Bill 31-23 because the proposed typographical and stylistic corrections to County laws is unlikely to have a significant impact on RESJ in the County.

RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

The Racial Equity and Social Justice Act requires OLO to consider whether recommended amendments to bills aimed at narrowing racial and social inequities are warranted in developing RESJ impact statements.⁵ OLO anticipates that Expedited Bill 31-23 will have little to no impact on RESJ in the County. As such, OLO does not offer recommended amendments.

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

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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 Elsabet Tesfaye, Performance Management and Data Analyst, drafted this RESJ impact statement.

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 Memorandum from Ludeen McCartney-Green, Legislative Attorney introducing Agenda Item. Bill-31-23 Technical Corrections. Introduced June 20, 2023

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2023/20230620/20230620_1D.pdf

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Bill 27-19, Administration – Human Rights – Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice – Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee – Established, Montgomery County Council