

# Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

## BILL 7-23: CONSUMER PROTECTION - GASOLINE STATION SIGNAGE

### SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 7-23 will have a minimal impact on RESJ in the County, as it does not appear to have differing effects on constituents by race and ethnicity nor impact racial and social inequities in the County.

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### 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

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### PURPOSE OF BILL 7-23

Under State law, certain gas station signs in the County must post the lowest unit price charged for regular gas. The lowest unit price of gas varies depending upon the method of payment. Generally, the per unit price of regular gas when using a credit card is higher than the per unit price when using cash.<sup>3</sup>

If enacted, Bill 7-23 would require the posting of the highest credit price on gas station signs as a consumer protection measure. The Bill defines credit price as follows:

Credit price means the total amount, including any fees, payable to a gas station by a customer using a credit card or other non-cash form of payment, for one whole measurement unit of regular gasoline sold on the premises.

If gas stations fail to comply, it would constitute an unfair or deceptive trade practice under County law.

Bill 7-23 is aligned with Senate Bill 178, introduced in the Maryland General Assembly in January 2023. Like the Senate Bill, Bill 7-23 is intended to avoid consumer confusion about the lowest per unit price of gas.<sup>4</sup>

Bill 7-23, Consumer Protection – Gasoline Station Signage, was introduced by the Council on February 7, 2023.

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### ANTICIPATED RESJ IMPACTS

OLO anticipates Bill 7-23 will have a minimal impact on RESJ in the County, as it does not appear to have differing effects on constituents by race and ethnicity nor impact racial and social inequities in the County.

# RESJ Impact Statement

## Bill 7-23

### 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.<sup>5</sup> OLO anticipates Bill 7-23 will have a minimal impact on RESJ in the County. As such, OLO does not offer recommended amendments.

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### 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.

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### CONTRIBUTIONS

OLO staffer Janmarie Peña, Performance Management and Data Analyst, drafted this RESJ impact statement.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Introduction Staff Report for Bill 7-23, Montgomery County Council, Introduced February 7, 2023.

[https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllms/DownloadFilePage?FileName=2782\\_1\\_23750\\_Bill\\_7-2023\\_Introduction\\_20230207.pdf](https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllms/DownloadFilePage?FileName=2782_1_23750_Bill_7-2023_Introduction_20230207.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

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