

Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

BILL 17-25: CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT – GENERAL PROVISIONS – EXEMPTIONS – INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 17-25 will have a minimal impact on racial equity and social justice (RESJ) in the County. Bill 17-25 makes the County's current procedures for purchasing internet service permanent. This is not likely to meaningfully benefit or burden community members by race and ethnicity nor impact racial and social inequities in the County.

PURPOSE OF RESJ IMPACT STATEMENTS

RESJ impact statements (RESJIS) evaluate the anticipated impact of legislation on racial equity and social justice in the County. RESJ is a **process** that focuses on centering the needs, leadership, and power of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) and communities with low incomes. RESJ is also a **goal** of eliminating racial and social inequities. Applying a RESJ lens is important to achieve RESJ.¹ This involves seeing, thinking, and working differently to address the racial and social inequities that cause racial and social disparities.²

PURPOSE OF BILL 17-25

Every County expenditure for goods, services, or construction must follow County procurement law in Chapter 11B of the County Code and the Code of Regulations.³ According to the County Executive, the County has been unsuccessful in obtaining internet service through the standard procurement process. This is because internet providers have standard service agreements that customers must agree to, which conflict with County requirements.⁴

The County currently uses a temporary procurement exemption to purchase internet service.⁵ If enacted, Bill 17-25 would permanently exempt the acquisition of internet access service from County procurement law. In particular, it would allow purchases to be made using "procedures approved by the Chief Administrative Officer."⁶ According to the Fiscal Impact Statement, the Bill is expected to "reduce expenditures significantly due to the reduced costs of procuring internet service at wholesale prices."⁷

The Council introduced Bill 17-25 on behalf of the County Executive on June 17, 2025.

ANTICIPATED RESJ IMPACTS

To consider the anticipated impact of Bill 17-25 on RESJ in the County, OLO recommends the consideration of two related questions:

- Who would primarily benefit or be burdened by this bill?
- What racial and social inequities could passage of this bill weaken or strengthen?

RESJ Impact Statement

Bill 17-25

OLO anticipates Bill 17-25 will have a minimal impact on RESJ in the County. Bill 17-25 makes the County's current procedures for purchasing internet service permanent. This is not likely to meaningfully benefit or burden community members by race and ethnicity nor impact racial and social inequities 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.⁸ OLO anticipates Bill 17-25 will have a minimal 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 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.

¹ Definition of racial equity and social justice adopted from [Marlysa Gamblin et al., "Applying Racial Equity to U.S. Federal Nutrition Programs," Bread for the World](#) and [Racial Equity Tools](#).

² Ibid.

³ [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 17-25, Montgomery County Council, Introduced June 17, 2025, pg. 1.](#)

⁴ Memo from County Executive to Council President, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 17-25, pg. (3).

⁵ Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 17-25, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 17-25, pg. (5)

⁶ Introduction Staff Report for Bill 17-25, pg. 2.

⁷ Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 17-25, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 17-25, pgs. (5)-(6).

⁸ [Bill 27-19, Administration – Human Rights – Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice – Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee – Established, Montgomery County Council.](#)