

# Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

## Bill 17-24: Administration – Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions – Non-merit Positions

### SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 17-24 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as it is proposing a new role within the Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions (TEBS).

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### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 17-24

The Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions (TEBS) provides technology and enterprise business solutions to all County departments and offices, such as cloud services and technical support.<sup>1</sup>

The Chief Data Officer position was established in 2020 under the Director of TEBS. The responsibilities included the coordination, direction, and evaluation of Countywide data management standards and practices, overseeing and maintaining data stores, data security and transparency, and implementing data systems policies and procedures. In a memorandum from the County Executive accompanying the introduction of Bill 17-24, it is stated "through ongoing strategic reorganization, the duties of the Chief Data Officer are now supported by other divisions within TEBS, providing an opportunity to repurpose this position."<sup>2</sup>

If passed, Bill 17-24 would abolish the current non-merit position of Chief Data Officer within TEBS and create a new non-merit position, Chief Operating Officer. The new position would be appointed by the County Executive and would also work under the direction of the Director of TEBS. Responsibilities would include:

- Overseeing and managing daily operations of the TEBS division;
- Assisting the Director in all aspects of planning, implementing, and guiding the County's information technology programs, infrastructures, and services; and
- Coordinating with the Director to ensure effective operations and County programs and services.

Bill 17-24, Administration – Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions – Non-merit Positions, was introduced by the Council at the request of the County Executive on September 10, 2024.<sup>3</sup>

## ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the bill proposes the elimination of an older role and the creation of a new role within the Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions, OLO anticipates Bill 17-24 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change, including the reduction and/or sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions, community resilience, and adaptative capacity.

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## RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

The Climate Assessment Act requires OLO to offer recommendations, such as amendments or other measures to mitigate any anticipated negative climate impacts.<sup>4</sup> OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Bill 17-24 is likely to have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change, including the reduction and/or sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions, community resilience, and adaptative capacity.

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## CAVEATS

OLO notes two caveats to this climate assessment. First, predicting the impacts of legislation upon climate change is a challenging analytical endeavor due to data limitations, uncertainty, and the broad, global nature of climate change. Second, the analysis performed here is intended to inform the legislative process, not 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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## PURPOSE OF CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS

The purpose of the Climate Assessments is to evaluate the anticipated impact of legislation on the County's contribution to addressing climate change. These climate assessments will provide the Council with a more thorough understanding of the potential climate impacts and implications of proposed legislation, at the County level. The scope of the Climate Assessments is limited to the County's contribution to addressing climate change, specifically upon the County's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and how actions suggested by legislation could help improve the County's adaptative capacity to climate change, and therefore, increase community resilience.

While co-benefits such as health and cost savings may be discussed, the focus is on how proposed County bills may impact GHG emissions and community resilience.

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## CONTRIBUTIONS

OLO staffer Kaitlyn Simmons drafted this assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> Montgomery County Government, [TEBS Organization Chart](#), Accessed September 16, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Montgomery County Government, [Bill 17-24 Introduction Packet](#), September 10, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Montgomery County Government, [Bill 17-24 Introduction Packet](#), September 10, 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Bill 3-22, Legislative Branch – Climate Assessments – Required, Montgomery County Council, Effective date October 24, 2022