

Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

Bill 21-24: General Provisions – Naming of County Facilities

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 21-24 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as the bill seeks to establish a procedure through the County Council for naming County-owned facilities.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 21-24

Under Administrative Procedure (AP) 5-19, adopted in 2008, the County Executive follows a set process for naming County-owned facilities. To name a facility after an individual via Executive Order, the person must have been inactive in their field for at least five years and made a significant contribution to the community or County, or be a notable historical figure in Montgomery County, the state, or the nation.¹

The process involves three steps:

- (1) the County Executive forms an ad hoc committee to consider naming the facility;
- (2) the committee, chaired by the Chief Administrative Officer, makes a recommendation; and
- (3) the Executive reviews the recommendation and finalizes the naming through an Executive Order.²

The purpose of Bill 21-24 is to establish a process for the County Council, like the County Executive, to name County facilities after individuals based on specific criteria. Similar to AP 5-19, the Bill would permit the Council to pass a resolution to name a County facility after an individual who has been inactive in their field for at least five years and made a significant contribution to the program represented by the County facility or the community, or who is a historically significant person in the County, the state, or the nation.³

Before adopting a resolution, the Council must consult the County Executive and hold a public hearing. The resolution requires the approval of at least seven Councilmembers.⁴

The Council introduced Bill 21-24, General Provisions – Naming of County Facilities, on October 15, 2024.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As Bill 21-24 seeks to establish a process to name County-owned facilities through the County Council, OLO anticipates it 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.

RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

The Climate Assessment Act requires OLO to offer recommendations, such as amendments or other measures to mitigate any anticipated negative climate impacts.⁵ OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Bill 21-24 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 adaptive capacity.

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.

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 adaptive 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS

OLO staffer Kaitlyn Simmons drafted this assessment.

¹ See Administrative Procedure 5-19 in the [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 21-24](#).

² Ibid.

³ [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 21-24](#).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Bill 3-22, Legislative Branch – Climate Assessments – Required, Montgomery County Council, Effective date October 24, 2022