

Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

Expedited Transportation – Parking Permit for Specialized Bill 29-24: Service Providers – Established

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Expedited Bill 29-24 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as the bill would create discounted parking permits in the Silver Spring Central Business District (CBD) area for childcare providers and organizations that serve the unhoused population.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF EXPEDITED BILL 29-24

Montgomery County operates three Parking Lot Districts (PLDs) in Bethesda, Silver Spring, and Wheaton to provide shared public parking facilities and reduce costs and land use for parking. Managed by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), these districts include parking garages and lots and are funded primarily by parking fees and fines set by the Council.¹

The purpose of Bill 29-24, according to its sponsor, is to create a new monthly parking permit for service providers for the unhoused and childcare providers in the Silver Spring CBD.^{2,3} The Bill would make "specialized service providers" eligible for a discounted parking permit in any garage located in the Silver Spring PLD. The rate would be five percent of the monthly permit rate. Eligible providers include non-profit organizations offering homelessness services, licensed childcare providers, and full-time employees of the County's Department of Health and Human Services.⁴

The policy would expire "after 7 years (December 31, 2032), or 5 years after the Maryland Transit Administration opens the Purple Line for revenue service, whichever is first."⁵

The Council introduced Expedited Bill 29-24 on December 10, 2024.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the bill would create discounted parking permits in the Silver Spring CBD for childcare providers and organizations that serve the unhoused population, OLO anticipates Expedited Bill 29-24 will have little to 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.⁶ OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Expedited Bill 29-24 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.

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 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS

OLO staffer Kaitlyn Simmons drafted this assessment.

¹ Ludeen McCartney-Green and Stephen Kenny, "Expedited Bill 29-24, Transportation – Parking Permit for Specialized Service Providers – Established," memorandum to the County Council, December 5, 2024, in the [Introduction Staff Report](#).

² Kate Stewart, "Fact Sheet: Specialized Services Providers Parking Permit – Expedited Bill 29-24," Montgomery County Council, December 5, 2024, in the [Introduction Staff Report](#).

³ A map of the Silver Spring Central Business District is enclosed in the [Introduction Staff Report](#).

⁴ Montgomery County Council, "Expedited Bill 29-24, Transportation – Parking Permit for Specialized Service Providers – Established," December 10, 2024, in the [Introduction Staff Report](#).

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Bill 3-22, Legislative Branch – Climate Assessments – Required, Montgomery County Council, Effective date October 24, 2022