

Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

BILL 13-25: LICENSING AND REGULATIONS GENERALLY – PICNICS, DANCES, SOIREES, AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT - AMENDMENTS

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 13-25 will have no impact as it is proposing changes to a law that does not have an impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 13-25

Under current County Code, any unlicensed or unpermitted "picnic, dance, soiree, or other entertainment for gain or profit to which the general public is admitted" is prohibited. Those who violate this prohibition can be fined \$25 for each offense.¹

The Bill seeks to increase the fines for unlicensed or unpermitted commercial parties. According to the sponsoring Councilmembers, the Bill aims to curb for-profit house parties in neighborhoods as these are "events that are already illegal according to County zoning but that have proven difficult for County Government to effectively address."² If passed it would:

- Establish unlicensed or unpermitted commercial picnics, dances, soirees, parties, and other entertainment as a Class A violation;
- Increase the maximum civil violation penalty to \$5,000 when the violation is related to an unlicensed or unpermitted commercial activity occurring at a home;
- Increase the maximum civil violation penalty to \$5,000 for certain code violations associated with an unlicensed or unpermitted commercial activity; and
- Exclude for-profit activities benefitting organizations registered under certain sections of the Internal Revenue Code from the prohibition.

Bill 13-25, Licensing and Regulations Generally – Picnics, Dances, Soirees, and other Entertainment – Amendments was introduced by the County Council on May 6, 2025.³

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

OLO anticipates Bill 13-25 will have no impact as it is proposing a change to a law that does not have an 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.⁴ OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Bill 13-25 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 [Montgomery County Code Sec. 30-1. Picnics, dances, soirees and other entertainment-License required, Accessed 5/21/2025.](#)

² [Montgomery County Council, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 13-25, Introduced 5/6/2025.](#)

³ [Montgomery County Council, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 13-25, Introduced 5/6/2025.](#)

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