

Economic Impact Statement

Montgomery County, Maryland

Bill 17-24 Administration – Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions – Non-Merit Positions

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that Bill 17-24 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County in terms of the Council’s priority indicators.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 17-24

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

The Chief Data Officer position was established in 2020 under the Director of TEBS. The responsibilities include 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. A memorandum from the County Executive on Bill 17-24 states, “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.”²

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, appointed by the County Executive, would be 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.

At the request of the County Executive, the Council introduced Bill 17-24, Administration – Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions – Non-merit Positions, on September 10, 2024.³

¹ Montgomery County Government, TEBS Organization Chart.

² Montgomery County Council, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 17-24.

³ Ibid.

INFORMATION SOURCES, METHODOLOGIES, AND ASSUMPTIONS

Per Section 2-81B of the Montgomery County Code, the purpose of this Economic Impact Statement is to assess the impacts of Bill 17-24 on County-based private organizations and residents in terms of the Council’s priority economic indicators and whether the Bill would likely result in a net positive or negative impact on overall economic conditions in the County.⁴ There would be no direct connection between replacing the non-merit position of Chief Data Officer within TEBS with new non-merit position of Chief Operating Office and the economic indicators prioritized by the Council. Therefore, OLO anticipates that the Bill would have an insignificant economic impact on private organizations, residents, and overall economic conditions in the County.

VARIABLES

Not applicable

IMPACTS

WORKFORCE ■ TAXATION POLICY ■ PROPERTY VALUES ■ INCOMES ■ OPERATING COSTS ■ PRIVATE SECTOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT ■ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ■ COMPETITIVENESS

Not applicable

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Not applicable

WORKS CITED

Montgomery County Code. [Sec. 2-81B, Economic Impact Statements \(n.d.\)](#).

Montgomery County Council. [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 17-24: Administration – Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions – Non-Merit Positions](#). September 10, 2024.

Montgomery County Government. [TEBS Organization Chart](#). Accessed September 16, 2024.

CAVEATS

Two caveats to the economic analysis performed here should be noted. First, predicting the economic impacts of legislation is a challenging analytical endeavor due to data limitations, the multitude of causes of economic outcomes, economic shocks, uncertainty, and other factors. 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Stephen Roblin (OLO) prepared this report.

⁴ Montgomery County Code, Sec. 2-81B, Economic Impact Statements.