

Economic Impact Statement

Montgomery County, Maryland

Expedited Bill 30-25: Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment – Enforcement Procedures

Summary

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that Expedited Bill 30-25 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County, as measured by the Council's priority economic indicators. The Bill would repeal the photographic evidence requirement for enforcing the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers in the County. While the repeal could reduce economic costs stemming from job instability among landscaping employees, OLO lacks data to conclude the Bill would achieve this beneficial outcome.

Background and Purpose of Expedited Bill 30-25

In September 2023, the Council passed Bill 18-22, banning the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the County starting July 1 of this year.¹ The Bill intended to decrease noise pollution and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.²

Enforcement of the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers currently requires community members to submit a complaint that includes photographic evidence of the person violating the ban.³ The purpose of Expedited Bill 30-25 is to repeal the photographic evidence requirement and instead allow a complaint on a violation of the ban by at least one witness.⁴

Given their overrepresentation among business owners and employees in the landscaping industry, Latinx community members are disproportionately impacted by enforcement of the gas-powered leaf blower ban.⁵ In July of this year, the Transportation and Environment Committee raised concerns that amid the current political climate – where Latinx community members are being targeted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) –⁶ the photo enforcement requirement could create a chilling effect on landscapers.^{7,8} As noted in the introduction staff report, "Bill 30-25 seeks to address the concerns and unintended consequences raised by the Committee."⁹

The Council introduced Expedited Bill 30-25 on September 30, 2025.

¹ [Action Staff Report for Bill 18-22, Montgomery County Council, Vote on September 26, 2023.](#)

² ["Leaf Blowers," Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection.](#)

³ [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 30-25, Montgomery County Council, Introduced September 30, 2025, pg. 1.](#)

⁴ *Ibid.*, pg. 2.

⁵ [RESJIS for Expedited Bill 19-25, Office of Legislative Oversight, July 14, 2025, pg. 2.](#)

⁶ [Antonio Planas, "It's about surviving": Hispanic businesses struggle with ICE and the economy," The Banner, October 13, 2025.](#)

⁷ [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 30-25, pg. 2.](#)

⁸ [Maryam Shahzad, "Elrich Supports Enforcing Leaf Blower Ban Without Photos," Montgomery County Media, October 9, 2025.](#)

⁹ [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 30-25, pg. 2.](#)

Information Sources, Methodologies, and Assumptions

As required by 2-81B of the Montgomery County Code, this Economic Impact Statement evaluates the impacts of Expedited Bill 30-25 on residents and private organizations, using the Council's priority economic indicators as the measure. In doing so, it examines whether the Bill would have a net positive or negative impact on overall economic conditions in the County.¹⁰

One of the current challenges the landscaping industry faces is the Trump administration's mass and indiscriminate arrests and deportations of undocumented immigrants, which is likely exacerbating labor shortages in the industry, especially among seasonal workers.¹¹ Against this backdrop, there may be an unintended "chilling effect" from requiring photographic evidence of violations of the County's gas-powered leaf blower ban, as discussed in the Bill's introduction staff report. Repealing the photographic evidence requirement may reduce economic costs stemming from job instability among landscaping employees. However, OLO lacks data to conclude the Bill would achieve this beneficial outcome.

Variables

Not applicable

Impacts

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

Residents

Not applicable

Businesses, Non-Profits, Other Private Organizations

Not applicable

Net Impact

Not applicable

Discussion Items

Not applicable

¹⁰ Montgomery County Code, "[Sec. 2-81B, Economic Impact Statements](#)."

¹¹ For recent data on U.S. immigration enforcement, see Maanvi Singh et al., "[How Trump Has Supercharged the Immigration Crackdown - in Data](#)," US News, *The Guardian*, July 23, 2025.

Caveats

Two caveats to the economic impact analysis conducted 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, PhD (OLO) prepared this report.