

Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

BILL 37-26: DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR – PUBLIC FACILITIES - AMENDMENTS

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 37-26 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as it is proposing giving the County authority to temporarily restrict access of individuals engaging in disruptive behavior to specified County facilities.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 37-26

In 2004, the County enacted Section 32-19C of the County Code to address disruptive incidents in County public libraries,¹ giving the County authority to issue a Disruptive Behavior Order (DBO) to individuals who disrupt the normal functioning of a public facility.² Under current law, individuals who receive a DBO can be prohibited from accessing the facility where the disruption occurred for a period of 90 days or less.³

According to the County Executive, disruptive behavior incidents in County facilities have “increased dramatically,” from 22 documented incidents in 2020 to 168 in 2024⁴—a more than seven-fold increase. In response to rising incidents, Bill 37-26 would permit the County to issue DBOs that last more than 90 days and restrict access to more than one County facility. Additionally, the Bill would “transfer reviewing responsibilities to the County's Police Department or hearing examiner, depending on the duration of the order; provide the right to an evidentiary hearing and the right to appeal; [and] transfer annual reporting responsibilities to the County's Police Department.”⁵

The Council introduced Bill 37-26 at the request of the County Executive on July 21, 2026.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the Bill proposes giving the County authority to temporarily restrict access of individuals engaging in disruptive behavior to specified County facilities, OLO anticipates Bill 37-26 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change, including the reduction and/or sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions and community climate resilience.

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 Bill 37-26 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 and community climate resilience.

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 increase the County’s community climate 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 County Executive memo in [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 37-26](#).

² Disruptive behavior is defined in County Code as “act[ing] in a manner that a reasonable person would find disrupts the normal functions being carried on at that public facility” or “engag[ing] in conduct that is specifically prohibited by a notice conspicuously posted at that public facility.”

³ Montgomery County Code, [Section 32-19C, Disruptive Behavior—Public Facilities](#).

⁴ For data, see County Executive memo.

⁵ See Bill in Introduction Staff Report for Bill 37-26.

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