



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Wellons, Chen, McCartney-Green, Ndou
Purpose: Final action – vote expected

Agenda Item #1
November 29, 2021

SUBJECT

2022 Legislative Session, Maryland General Assembly

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Melanie Wenger, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR)
Kathleen Boucher, Special Assistant to Director, OIR
Leslie Frey, Legislative Analyst, OIR
Sara Morningstar, Federal Relations Coordinator and Legislative Analyst, OIR
Amy Samman, Legislative Analyst, OIR
Executive Department Representatives

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Review and approve a list of capital project priorities to send to the State Delegation, as a supplement to the priorities presented to the Delegation on November 15, 2021;
- Review and approve a letter to Governor Hogan regarding the Office of Immigration Affairs; and
- Review and take positions on local and bi-county bills.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

On November 15, 2021, the Council President and the County Executive presented to the State Delegation the County's 2022 General Assembly priorities, [state-priority 2022.pdf \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](#). The Council will consider whether to supplement the priorities with a separate list of priority capital projects. (©7).

The Council also will consider approving a letter to the Governor to advocate for enhanced funding for the Office of Immigration Affairs. (©10).

In addition, the Council will begin its review of local and bi-county bills for the upcoming 2022 General Assembly session. (©12).

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Whether to approve the enclosed list of priority capital projects, including but not limited to:
 - Restoration Center – \$18 million
 - Bethesda Metro South Entrance – \$20 million
 - Zero Emissions Bus Program – \$18 million
 - Veirs Mill Road Flash Bus Rapid Transit – \$20 million
 - Great Seneca Science Corridor Transit Vehicles – \$13.5 million
 - Personal Living Quarters – \$25 million (\$7 million available in federal HUD HOMEfunds)
 - Criminal Justice Center – \$74 million

- Whether to approve the enclosed letter to Governor Hogan regarding the Office of Immigration Affairs.
 - Last year, the General Assembly established the Office of Immigrant Affairs ([HB15/SB85](#)). Among its responsibilities are establishing a network of neighborhood-based opportunity centers to provide immigration services, increasing ESOL programs, connecting immigrants with workforce development programs, and strengthening connections through civic engagement. Right now, Maryland and Montgomery County are welcoming migrant and asylum-seeking children and families, Afghan refugees, and Afghan humanitarian parolees. A well-funded Office of Immigrant Affairs could support the settlement of these new residents in Montgomery County and all the other Maryland jurisdictions where they are and will reside. Additionally, the Office is a good entity to assist the county, and every jurisdiction in the State, with addressing the need to grow the number of linguistically and culturally diverse mental health professionals both through encouraging young people to choose a mental health profession career path and to eliminate the barriers that prevent our foreign-trained professional from becoming licensed to practice in Maryland. This is a priority for the county and has been the subject of ongoing sessions of the Joint Health & Human Services and Education & Culture Committee.
 - Attached at ©10 is a draft letter to the Governor for the Council's consideration and approval requesting robust funding for the Office. If approved by the Council, the Executive would be asked to join in signing this letter.

- Whether to support, support with amendments, take no position on, hold, or oppose the following bills local and bi-county bills: [MC 2-22](#), [MC 3-22](#), [MC 4-22](#), [MC 5-22](#), [MC 13-22](#), [MC 16-22](#), [MC 20-22](#), [PG/MC 100-22](#), [PG/MC 101-22](#), [PG/MC 103-22](#).

This report contains:

Memorandum from OIR regarding legislation	©1
List of proposed capital projects (provided by OIR)	©7
Draft Letter to Governor Hogan	©10
Chart of Local and Bi-county Bills (with Council Staff recommendations)	©12

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OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Melanie Wenger
Director

November 19, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Montgomery County Council

FROM: Melanie L. Wenger, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations *MLW*

SUBJECT: 2022 State Legislative Session Preparation

The purpose of the Office of Intergovernmental Relation's meeting with the County Council that will take place at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, November 29, 2021 is to obtain the Council's input on the following three items, in preparation for the 2022 Session:

1. Local and bi-county bills introduced by individual State Delegation members that are scheduled for a public hearing before the State Delegation on Monday, December 13, 2021
2. A list of capital projects for which the County is seeking State capital investment (see Attachment 1)
3. A draft letter to Governor Hogan relating to the establishment and funding of the Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (see Attachment 2)

The Montgomery County Delegation will hold public hearings on Montgomery County Local and Bi-County bills that will be introduced in the 2022 State Legislative Session on December 13th and 15th. Summaries of the bills that will be taken up by the Delegation on December 13th follow:

LOCAL BILLS

MC 2-22 – **Montgomery County - Enforcement Officers - Use of Body-Worn Cameras** (Delegates Moon, Carr, Charkoudian, Crutchfield, Palakovich Carr, Love, Reznik, Shetty, Stewart & Wilkins and Senator Waldstreicher)

This bill amends the Montgomery County Code to require certain “enforcement officers of Montgomery County” to use body-worn cameras by July 1, 2025, consistent with policies developed by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC). The term “enforcement officer” is currently defined in the County Code to mean an individual employed by the State, the County, a municipality, or a special taxing district as a police officer or in a job that includes authority to issue citations. The bill applies to enforcement officers who:

(1) regularly interact with members of the public as part of official duties, regardless of whether they are working part-time or for multiple enforcement agencies; or (2) are engaged in uniformed security related secondary employment.

The Office of the County Attorney (OCA) believes that this bill is an invalid Public Local Law because it seeks to impose requirements on only one County on a subject covered by the Express Powers Act (i.e., police power). OIR and OCA staff spoke to Delegate Moon about this legal issue and he stated that he intends to offer amendments that would narrow the scope of the bill so that it only addresses the date by which police officers employed by municipalities must use body worn cameras. Under the [*Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 \(Senate Bill 71\)*](#), police officers employed by Montgomery County must comply with the MPTSC body worn camera requirements by July 1, 2025. The sponsor’s intent is to make this same deadline applicable to municipalities in the County.

County Executive supports MC 2-22 with sponsor amendments as described.

MC 3-22 – **Montgomery County - Speed and School Bus Monitoring Systems** (Delegates Moon, Charkoudian & Wilkins and Senator Smith)

This local bill would require the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), in conjunction with the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) to construct a median divider on State roads with two or more traffic lanes in each direction, and which register in a 12-month period more than 1,000 school bus camera violations for vehicles traveling in the opposite direction. (Under State law, motorists must stop for a school bus with its lights flashing on roadways that do not have concrete dividers.) Montgomery County would be directed to use school bus camera violation revenues to pay its equal share of the costs of constructing the median dividers. If those funds are insufficient, SHA would pay the remaining costs. The bill would also repeal current State law prohibiting speed cameras in areas where the speed limit has been reduced. If cameras are installed in those locations, the net revenues generated from violations must be directed back to those locations for safety enhancements.

MCDOT has reviewed MC 3-22 and, while they do not have a position on speed cameras, they are concerned about the County being responsible for constructing medians on State highways, and that construction costs would be equally shared with SHA. They also explain that their

Department does not have access to revenues collected from speed cameras, and there is no mechanism directing those funds to MCDOT to be used for these construction projects. Further, as drafted, MC 3-22 does not address the feasibility of constructing median dividers on State roads. It may not be possible – regardless of the number of school bus camera violations – to construct medians, nor does the bill account for school bus stops being routinely relocated.

MCDOT suggests three possible modifications to the bill: (1) designate bus stop safety improvements as a preferred use of school bus camera violation revenues; (2) identify high violation locations where feasibility countermeasure installations can be assessed (e.g., median construction, bus stop relocation, etc.); and (3) report on efforts to reduce school bus camera violations in high incident locations and use of school bus violation funds. MCPD has reviewed MC 3-22 and takes no position.

County Executive has no position yet on MC 3-22 pending further discussion.

MC 4-22 – Montgomery County Board of Education - Election of Members (Delegate Moon)

This bill establishes a new voting threshold for elections to the five “resident-district” seats on the Montgomery County Board of Education. Specifically, the bill mandates that each resident-district member must be elected by a plurality of the voters who reside in the district rather than a plurality of the voters Countywide. The bill does not impact elections for the two at-large seats on the Board. The bill embodies the same policy that was reflected in a statewide bill considered during the 2021 Session, [*House Bill 655 - Local Government - County Commissioners Elections - District Voting*](#). As introduced, the bill applied only to Commission Counties and required that the election of a commissioner to represent a specific district must be decided by a plurality of the votes cast within the district. The bill was amended by the House of Delegates to make it applicable to district members of any local board of education in the State. The bill did not receive a vote in the Senate Education, Health, and Environment Committee.

County Executive supports MC 4-22.

MC 5-22 – Montgomery County - Board of Education - Student Member Scholarship (Delegate Luedtke)

Under current State law, a student member of the Montgomery County Board of Education who completes a full term on the Board is entitled to receive: (1) a scholarship of \$5,000 to be applied for higher education costs; or (2) a scholarship established in legislation based on recommendations of the Montgomery County Board of Education Compensation Commission. This bill establishes a new requirement that the student member receive a scholarship to be applied to higher education costs in an amount that is equal to the highest annual resident undergraduate tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board that is charged at a four-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland Global Campus and University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus. County Executive supports MC 5-22.

MC 13-22 – Montgomery County - Voting Methods (Delegates Palakovich Carr, Carr, Charkoudian, Lopez, Moon, Qi, Solomon, Stewart & Wilkins)

This bill authorizes the County to adopt a local law establishing a “ranked choice” or “approval rating” voting system for elections to County Executive, County Council, Circuit Court Judge, State’s Attorney, Circuit Court Clerk, Register of Wills, Orphan’s Court Judge, Sheriff, and Board of Education. “Ranked choice voting” means a method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters rank candidates in order of preference and votes are tabulated in a manner that reflects voter preference. “Approval voting” means a method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters may choose any number of candidates and the candidate chosen most often is elected. This bill is identical to [House Bill 767 \(MC 22-21\) - Montgomery County - Voting Methods](#) from the 2021 Session that was supported by the County Executive and County Council. That bill was approved by the House Delegation with an amendment that required the County to include an educational campaign in any local law authorizing a ranked choice or approval voting system. The bill did not receive a vote in the House Ways and Means Committee.

County Executive supports MC 13-22.

MC 16-22 – Montgomery County - Board of Education - Membership (Delegate Stewart)

This bill increases from two to three the number of at-large seats on the Montgomery County Board of Education. Under the bill, the Board would have a total of eight elected (and voting) members (three at-large and five resident-district) and a student member.

County Executive has no position yet on MC 16-22.

MC 20-22 – Montgomery County - Affiliating with a Party and Voting in Primary Elections (Delegates Qi & Crutchfield and Senator Kagan)

Under current State law, party affiliation changes must be processed before 9:00 pm on the 21st day before Election Day. Although, individuals may appear in person to register to vote during early voting and on Election Day, they may not change party affiliation at those times. This bill would allow unaffiliated registered voters who are residents of Montgomery County to change to a party affiliation and cast a ballot in that party’s primary election at an early voting center or Election Day polling place. If an election judge determines that an unaffiliated voter who seeks to make this type of change is a County resident, the election judge must issue a voter authority card, have the voter sign the card, and issue the voter the appropriate ballot for the voter’s new party affiliation. This bill has been forwarded to the Montgomery County Board of Elections for review and comment, but no feedback has been received yet.

County Executive opposes MC 20-22.

BI-COUNTY BILLS

PG/MC 100-22 – Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission - Montgomery County - County Council and District Council - Voting Thresholds (Delegate Carr)

This bill changes the voting thresholds for the County Council and District Council that will apply to actions taken on or after December 5, 2022, when the Council will consist of 11, rather than 9, Councilmembers. The voting threshold for appointing a Commissioner over the disapproval of the County Executive is changed from 7 out of 9 Councilmembers (77.7% or at least 3/4 of Council) to 9 out of 11 Councilmembers (81.8% or at least 3/4 of Council). The voting thresholds for the following actions are changed from 6 out of 8 Councilmembers (66.3% or at least 2/3 of Council) to 8 out of 11 Councilmembers (72.7% or at least 2/3 of Council):

- Designate a Chair or Vice-Chair over the disapproval of the County Executive
- Authorize a supplementary salary for the Commissioner designated to serve on a full-time basis over the disapproval of the County Executive
- Reapprove or restore any budget item over the disapproval of the County Executive
- Amend an approved six-year capital improvements program
- Approve a zoning classification not shown as appropriate or suitable in the text or on the land use map of an approved master plan
- Enactment of a subdivision regulation or amendment over the disapproval of the County Executive

The voting threshold for approval of a zoning reclassification that is shown as appropriate or suitable in the text or on the land use map of an approved master plan or that was created after the District Council approved a master plan is changed from 5 out of 9 (majority) to 6 out of 11 (majority).

County Executive supports PG/MC 100-22.

PG/MC 101-22 – Montgomery County Planning Board - Open Meetings - Video and Audio Streaming and Minutes (Delegate Carr)

This bill requires the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to stream live video or audio of its open meetings (including teleconference calls) and maintain on its website a complete and unedited archived recording of each meeting. In the event of a technical failure that entirely prevents or affects the quality of live streaming, the bill specifies that the validity of any action taken by the Commission during the meeting is unaffected so long as the meeting otherwise complies with the bill and the Open Meetings Act and is not the result of willful action by the Commission. In addition to creating minutes, the Commission must make good faith efforts to record (by video or audio) any session that it is unable to livestream and maintain the recording on its website. This bill is substantively identical to a bill that was

enacted last year ([House Bill 789](#) – MC/PG 100-21) that imposed the same requirements on the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. The County Executive supported that bill and the Council did not take a position. M-NCPPC has not yet provided a position on the bill.

County Executive supports PG/MC 101-22.

[PG/MC 103-22](#) – Bicounty Commissions - Ethics - Certification of Compliance (Delegate Carr)

The State ethics law currently requires a bicounty commission to adopt regulations relating to conflicts of interest of its employees, financial disclosure by its employees, and lobbying of the commission that are substantially similar to provisions in the State ethics law that apply to State agencies. This bill requires each bicounty commission to annually certify to the State Ethics Commission that it is in compliance with those components of the State ethics law. The bill is modelled after an existing provision of State law that applies to counties and municipalities. The term “bicounty commission” includes the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission(M-NCPPC), and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC). WSSC has no position on this bill. M-NCPPC and WSTC have not yet provided a position.

County Executive supports PG/MC 103-22.

**Montgomery County Capital
Draft 11-19-21**

Major projects (descriptions of these projects follow):

1. Restoration Center – \$18 million
2. Bethesda Metro South Entrance – \$20 million
3. Zero Emissions Bus Program – \$18 million
4. Veirs Mill Road Flash Bus Rapid Transit – \$20 million
5. Great Seneca Science Corridor Transit Vehicles – \$13.5 million
6. Personal Living Quarters – \$25 million (\$7 million available in federal HUD HOME funds)
7. Criminal Justice Center – \$74 million

Smaller denomination projects:

1. Montgomery College – build out of leased space for a 4th location in East County with longer term goal of establishing a more comprehensive 4th campus
2. Maryland Statewide Mesonet (Statewide system for real-time community-level monitoring of weather conditions) – \$1.5 million
3. Olney Theatre – \$1.5 million
4. Olney Theatre, Root Outdoor Theatre – \$.5 million
5. Bowie Mills Bike Trail – \$1.5 million
6. Parks – various improvements throughout the County’s parks system

Already in the queue for FY 23 State funding:

1. Montgomery College, Silver Spring/Takoma Park campus, Leggett Math & Science Building – \$3.9 million
2. Montgomery College, Silver Spring/Takoma Park campus, Resource Center – \$5 million
3. Public School Construction, Traditional and EGRC programs (does not include Built to Learn funds) – \$45 million

Restoration Center – \$18M. The Restoration Center is a facility that will provide a continuum of care for those in crisis in an appropriate community-based setting. The Restoration Center will support the implementation of the Crisis Now model in Montgomery County and will provide alternatives to using hospital Emergency Departments or defaulting to criminal justice options for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The Center will be operated by DHHS or a DHHS contractor. It will provide a variety of Behavioral Health Services, to include triage, crisis stabilization, and warm hand off referrals to appropriate services for those experiencing mental health, substance use disorder, and/or other types of behavioral health crisis. It will provide an option to Police, Fire and Rescue, and community members and reduce the use of emergency rooms, hospitals, and jail detention. The Restoration Center will be staffed by a multidisciplinary team to include nursing staff, licensed mental health and addiction

professionals, peer specialists, and resource navigators. The Center will operate 24/7/365 and will operate under a 100% admission ("No Wrong Door") policy.

Bethesda Metro South Entrance (BMSE) – \$20M. As part of the Purple Line project, Montgomery County is funding the BMSE project, which provides for the design and construction of a new access from Elm Street west of Wisconsin Avenue to the southern end of the existing Bethesda Metrorail station. The BMSE project includes six elevators, emergency stairs, and associated facilities located in the Elm Street right-of-way connecting the street level with the existing Bethesda Metrorail station, a horizontal underground connection to the existing Metro station and the new Purple Line light rail system, and a new mezzanine above the existing Metrorail station platform. The availability of funds would help in filling an unexpected funding gap of \$20 million to allow for the completion of the \$25 million mezzanine project element. This project is a great example of an investment in critical infrastructure that expands the multi-modal transportation network, improves safety through a new station egress location, reduces congestion and associated carbon emissions, and increases access to better connect people and places. The BMSE is a key element needed to realize the benefits of the overall Purple Line project – to bring thousands of jobs to the region, attract new residents and businesses to Montgomery and Prince George’s counties, and help meet the demand for high-quality, reliable east-west transit service inside the Capital Beltway.

Zero Emissions Bus Program – \$18M. Through its Climate Action Plan (CAP), Montgomery County has adopted goals to reduce the County’s greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035. To meet these goals, one of the main strategies is to convert the County’s Ride On 368-bus transit fleet to a zero-emissions vehicle fleet. The County is developing a phased plan to address its transit infrastructure, fleet, depots, and operational needs over the next fourteen years. The County recently launched its first four electric buses and is in the process of procuring its next ten; it is constructing an electric microgrid that will charge up to 70 electric buses; it is actively looking for grants; and, evaluating technology, fleet, infrastructure, and facilities alternatives for resilient growth. Fuel cell buses cost approximately \$1.3M each, and battery electric buses cost approximately \$900,000 each. Based on Ride On’s service routes length, it is likely that a hybrid fleet comprised of both battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell buses will be required. The availability of funds would help in filling this cost gap; funds would be used to purchase zero emission buses as part of the County’s plan to provide a clean, innovative transportation network of the utmost quality and build a more sustainable transit fleet to support the elimination of greenhouse emissions by 2035. The amount requested would fund either 14 fuel cell buses or 20 battery electric buses.

Veirs Mill Road Flash Bus Rapid Transit (VMR Flash) – \$20M. The \$44 million VMR Flash will be a 7-mile, limited-stop, branded bus service with twelve stations planned along Veirs Mill Road between the Wheaton Metrorail Station and Montgomery College Rockville. The project will transform mobility options by connecting riders to activity and employment centers. This new service will improve transit travel time and increase opportunity for users, including a significant number of minority and low-income riders living along a highly congested corridor. Where possible, VMR Flash will run in its own lanes to bypass the existing traffic congestion. Bicycle and pedestrian improvements along the corridor will make it easier and safer to get to the VMR Flash stations. The VMR Flash Project is currently nearing

completion of the Preliminary Engineering phase, is funded through Final Design in the County's capital program and is anticipated to be in operation within the next five years if funding for construction is available. Montgomery County plans to enter the project into the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) Small Starts program in Winter 2022 to request funding for 50% of the project cost. The \$20M State contribution would be used to fund a significant portion of the local match for the grant, helping to advance the project into construction.

Great Seneca Science Corridor Transit Vehicles – \$13.5M. MCDOT is designing and constructing physical improvements to provide premium transit service between Shady Grove Metro Station and key destinations in the Great Seneca Science Corridor including the National Cancer Institute, the Universities at Shady Grove, Adventist Medical Center, Crown, Falls Grove, and numerous growing biotech research facilities. This new transit plan is a critical component of the County's efforts to support and encourage the growth of the biotech industry in this area, including portions of the City of Rockville and the City of Gaithersburg. To make this service a reality a fleet of 15 additional battery electric buses are needed and the financial capacity to provide these vehicles is not available within the County budget. The capital cost of 15 battery electric buses is \$13.5M.

Criminal Justice Center – \$74M. The new Criminal Justice Center (CJC) will replace the existing Montgomery County detention Center (MCDC) which currently provides short term detention services for men, women, and juveniles including intake, initial care, custody and security for inmates for up to 72 hours prior to transfer to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF). (Note: the State supported about 40% of the cost to build the MC Corrections Facility in Clarksburg which was completed in 2004)

Dear Governor Hogan:

With the enactment of Chapters 674/675 of 2021, Maryland is positioned to take a meaningful step towards better serving our immigrant neighbors who seek to make Maryland home. The chapters, entitled "Creating Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs", call for the establishment of the Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) and provide for funding of the Office and its duties, which include establishing a network of neighborhood-based opportunity centers that provide immigration services; connection to programs related to employment, English language-learning, civic engagement, and exploitation prevention programs. We write to urge you to include sufficient funding for the OIA in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget for the Office to become fully staffed and operationalized.

We thank you for your recent statements that Maryland stands ready and open to receive Afghans fleeing their country and for your support of organizations focused on assisting evacuees with transitioning to a new home in the United States. As you know, it is anticipated that refugees and asylees from Afghanistan will arrive in Maryland in numbers upwards of 1,000, and under federal and state law may be entitled to supports and services. While Maryland's Office of Refugees and Asylees will spearhead the coordination of efforts to meet the needs of Afghans and others who qualify as refugees and asylees, the OIA would be positioned to help these refuge-seekers as well as the thousands of other Marylanders who are immigrants to the United States.

In addition to evacuees from Afghanistan, Maryland is poised to receive thousands of other immigrants in the upcoming months. Currently, the United States is expecting a 20-year high in the number of unaccompanied migrant and asylum-seeking children approaching the border. According to the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement, 1,045 unaccompanied children have been released to sponsors in Montgomery County between October 2020 and August 2021. Prince George's County received 1,439 unaccompanied children during the same period. Between 2014-2021, Prince George's County and Montgomery County were the 6th and 11th highest-receiving counties in the nation, respectively, for unaccompanied children released to sponsors. These young people are fleeing high levels of violence, crime, natural disasters, the effects of climate change, food insecurity, and poverty.

It is important to note that not all immigrants qualify as refugees or asylees under federal law, which highlights the disparities in services and benefits immigrants will receive based on their legal status, although the underlying conditions that led them to flee to the United States are strikingly similar. In fact, most Afghans newly arriving in the United States (and likely also in Maryland) will be considered humanitarian parolees and may not be eligible for all mainstream federal benefits, however, their need for food assistance and health care are indistinguishable from their fellow countrymen who do qualify. This disparity is also evident between unaccompanied migrant and asylum-seeking children and their adult counterparts: only minor children qualify for limited federal and state benefits under the law. Funding the OIA to provide immigrants the opportunity to establish a lawful presence in the United States will enable them to access the federal humanitarian resources they need.

Maryland's immigrants could also benefit from a State entity that could facilitate collaboration between state and local stakeholders on a number of issues affecting the integration of immigrants into our workforce, economy, and communities. Montgomery County government programs, Montgomery County Public Schools, our hospitals, and community-based organizations are all in dire need of

linguistically and culturally diverse mental health professionals who meet the needs of, and reflect, the residents of the County. The Council and the Executive branch have been exploring ways to encourage young people to pursue mental health careers and also to help the County's residents who are foreign-trained mental health professionals become licensed in the state to help meet the needs of our residents, however, these foreign-trained mental health professionals face barriers to licensure and for myriad reasons often do not pursue careers in their fields of training.

Montgomery County is not alone in the State in facing these issues. An entity such as the Office of Immigrant Affairs would be ideally situated to coordinate the efforts of relevant state partners, such as the Skilled Immigrant Task Force in the Department of Labor and the state occupational licensing boards, along with those of relevant local partners such as the Suburban Maryland Welcome Back Center and our academic institutions, to comprehensively identify barriers to entering the mental health profession in Maryland and coordinate and implement a plan to address the barriers. Without an organization with a state-level view of the issues to bring all stakeholders together, efforts to address these issues will remain siloed.

With robust funding, the OIA can help meet these needs and others, such as increasing civic engagement and English language learning, and protecting immigrants from exploitation. Local governments, such as ours, are poised to be partners in providing these services and supports and would benefit from grant-making capabilities the OIA could have. Because local governments reach residents in their communities and schools and have deep connections to local organizations, they are an on-the-ground resource ready and eager to make Maryland a welcoming place for all immigrants; OIA can serve an important role in facilitating local efforts to make this a reality.

Sincerely

Bill	Bill Title	Reviewer	Analyst	Staff Rec.	Attorney/Analyst Comments	Notes
<u>MC 2-22</u>	Enforcement Officers - Use of Body-Worn Cameras	Christine	Susan	Hold	With amendments that the sponsor (Delegate Moon) plans to support, the bill would require municipalities within the County to require their officers to use body-worn cameras by July 1, 2025. The County Executive supports the legislation with the amendments. Council staff recommends hold , pending information about fiscal impact and the positions of municipalities.	
<u>MC 3-22</u>	Speed and School Bus Monitoring Systems	Livhu	Glenn	Hold	This local bill would require the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), in conjunction with the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) to construct a median divider on State roads with two or more traffic lanes in each direction, and which register in a 12-month period more than 1,000 school bus camera violations for vehicles traveling in the opposite direction. The County Executive has no position pending further information. Council staff recommends hold pending further information. It is unclear what a median divider would consist of, and staff is concerned that the County would be required to fund and construct dividers on state highways.	
<u>MC 4-22</u>	Board of Education - Election of Members	Livhu	Essie/ Nicole	Hold	The bill would change the way BOE members are elected. Currently BOE members are required to live in districts for geographic representation, but each seat is elected by the whole county. This would change the district seats to only be elected by the residents of that district. The County Executive supports the bill. Council staff recommends hold.	BOE to meet 12/2/2021 and take positions by 12/13/2021

<p><u>MC 5-22</u></p>	<p>Board of Education - Student Member Scholarship</p>	<p>Livhu</p>	<p>Essie/Nicole</p>	<p>Hold</p>	<p>This bill would significantly increase the amount of the higher education scholarship for the student member of the board. The student member's scholarship would increase from \$5,000 to an amount that is equal to the highest annual resident undergraduate tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board that is charged at a four-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland Global Campus and University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus. County Executive supports MC 5-22. Council staff recommends hold. Note that this is a merit-based, as opposed to a need-based scholarship.</p>	<p>BOE to meet 12/2/2021 and take positions by 12/13/2021</p>
<p><u>MC 13-22</u></p>	<p>Voting Methods</p>	<p>Livhu</p>	<p>Carlos</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>This bill would authorize the County Council to adopt, by law, a ranked choice voting method or an approval voting method for elections for certain local offices. The County previously supported a similar bill, MC 22-21. Several jurisdictions have implemented ranked choice voting (RCV), including the state of Virginia and the City of Takoma Park. Proponents of RCV argue that RCV ensures that the winner of a contest receives a majority of support. It can also incentivize candidates to run less-divisive campaigns and incentivize candidates to garner broader support, which can help prevent polarization. Research has shown that RCV can increase representation and success of women and people of color in elections. Some research has also shown that RCV can have a positive impact on voter turnout compared to non-RCV elections. The County Executive supports the bill. Council staff recommends support.</p>	

<u>MC 16-22</u>	Board of Education - Membership	Livhu	Essie/Nicole	Hold	The bill would increase the number of BOE members by 1, adding an at-large member. The County Executive does not yet have a position on the bill. Council staff recommends hold.	BOE to meet 12/2/2021 and take positions by 12/13/2021
<u>MC 20-22</u>	Affiliating with a Party and Voting in Primary Elections	Livhu	Carlos	Hold	This bill would authorize a registered voter who is a resident of Montgomery County and has declined to affiliate with a political party to change to a party affiliation and cast a ballot in that party's primary election at an early voting center or election day polling place in the County. This bill would seemingly expand eligibility for Montgomery County voters only, so that previously unaffiliated voters in Montgomery County could vote in statewide party primary contests but previously unaffiliated voters in other counties could not. Supporting broader legislation expanding participation to all unaffiliated voters in the state may be a more equitable solution if the Council chooses to support opening primary elections to previously unaffiliated voters. The County Executive opposes this bill. Council staff recommends hold.	
<u>PG/MC 100-22</u>	County Council and District Council - Voting Thresholds	Christine	Pam/Livhu	Support	This bill increases the number of votes needed by the District Council, typically by 2 votes, in anticipation of two Councilmembers being added to the Council in 2022. The County Executive supports the bill. Council staff recommends support.	
<u>PG/MC 101-22</u>	Open Meetings - Video and Audio Streaming and Minutes	Christine	Pam/ Livhu	Hold	This bill requires the Planning Board to record and livestream their meetings and to maintain those recordings. The County Executive supports the bill. Council staff recommends hold pending the position of MNCPPC. The Council took no position on an identical bill last year.	

<u>PG/MC 103-22</u>	Bicounty Commissions - Ethics - Certification of Compliance	Christine	Pam/ Livhu	No Position	This bill would require bi-county commissions (including MNCPPC, WSSC, and WSTC) to annually certify to the State Ethics Commission that it is in compliance with the State ethics law. The County Executive supports the bill. Council staff recommend hold pending positions by the affected commissions.	
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