

Bill No. 34-25
Concerning: Legislative Process –
Climate Assessments - Amendments
Revised: 2/5/2026 Draft No. 3
Introduced: November 4, 2025
Enacted: March 3, 2026
Executive: March 11, 2026
Effective: June 10, 2026
Sunset Date: None
Ch. 3, Laws of Mont. Co. 2026

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsors: Council Vice President Balcombe and Councilmember Luedtke
Co-Sponsor: then-Councilmember Alborno

AN ACT to:

- (1) amend the contents of climate assessments required for bills of the County Council and zoning text amendments of the District Council; and
- (2) generally amend the law regarding impact statements for County legislation.

By amending

Chapter 2, Administration
Section 2-81D

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

1 **Sec. 1. Section 2-81D is amended as follows:**

2 **2-81D. Climate Assessments.**

3 (a) *Definitions.* In this Section, the following terms have the meanings
4 indicated.

5 *Climate hazard* means a natural disaster or environmental consequence
6 of climate change, such as flooding, extreme temperatures, severe
7 storms, heavy winds, or droughts.

8 *Community climate resilience* means the sustained ability of a network
9 of people to use available resources to withstand, respond, recover, and
10 adapt to future climate hazards.

11 *Carbon drawdown* means anthropogenic activities removing carbon
12 dioxide from the atmosphere and durably storing it in geological,
13 terrestrial, or ocean reservoirs, or in products. It includes existing and
14 potential anthropogenic enhancement of biological or geochemical
15 carbon sinks, and direct air capture and storage.

16 *Director* means the Director of the Office of Legislative Oversight or
17 the Director's designee.

18 *Greenhouse gas emissions* mean emissions of greenhouse gases,
19 precursors of greenhouse gases, and aerosols caused by human
20 activities. These activities include the burning of fossil fuels,
21 deforestation, land use and land use changes, livestock and fertilizer
22 production, waste management, and industrial processes.

23 *Planning Board* means the Montgomery County Planning Board or the
24 Planning Board's designee.

25 *Sequestration* means the natural process of uptake and storage of carbon
26 in a carbon pool.

27 (b) *Climate assessments required.*

28 (1) The Director must submit an assessment to the Council
29 describing the climate impact, if any, of each bill under
30 consideration by the Council.

31 (2) The Planning Board must submit an assessment to the District
32 Council describing the climate impact, if any, of each zoning text
33 amendment, master plan, and master plan amendment under
34 consideration by the District Council.

35 (c) *Time for submission.*

36 * * *

37 (d) *Contents of climate assessment.*

38 (1) Each climate assessment must include:

39 (A) the sources of information, assumptions, and
40 methodologies used;

41 (B) a description of variables that could affect the assessment;
42 and

43 (C) if a bill, zoning text amendment, master plan, or master
44 plan amendment is likely to have no climate impact, why
45 that is the case.

46 (2) Each climate assessment must include:

47 (A) the potential positive or negative effects, if any, of the bill,
48 zoning text amendment, master plan, or master plan
49 amendment upon climate change;

50 (B) quantitative or qualitative evaluations of the identified
51 effects upon greenhouse gas emissions, sequestration, and
52 carbon drawdown; and

53 (C) quantitative or qualitative evaluations of the identified
54 effects upon community climate resilience [and adaptive
55 capacity].

56 (3) Each climate assessment must identify amendments or other
57 recommendations, if any, that would reduce or eliminate any
58 anticipated negative effects of the bill, zoning text amendment,
59 master plan, or master plan amendment upon carbon dioxide
60 removal, sequestration, drawdown, and community climate
61 resilience[, and adaptive capacity].

62 * * *

Approved:



Natali Fani-González, President, County Council

March 3, 2026

Date

Approved:



Marc Elrich, County Executive

March 11, 2026

Date

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Sara R. Tenenbaum, Clerk of the Council

March 11, 2026

Date