



Committee: PS
Committee Review: Completed
Staff: Christine Wellons, Chief Legislative Attorney
Purpose: Final action – vote expected

AGENDA ITEM #6C
March 17, 2026
Action

SUBJECT

Expedited Bill 6-26, Fire and Rescue Services - Emergency Medical Services Insurance Reimbursement Program - Use of Revenues

Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Luedtke, Katz, and Mink

Co-Sponsors: Council President Fani-González, Councilmember Stewart, Council Vice-President Balcombe, and Councilmembers Jawando, Sayles, Friedson, Evans, and Glass

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- The Public Safety (PS) Committee recommended (3-0) the enactment of Expedited Bill 6-26 as introduced.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Expedited Bill 6-26 would:

- (1) permit the authorized local fire and rescue department (LFRD) representative to receive revenues collected under the Emergency Medical Services Insurance Reimbursement Program under certain circumstances;
- (2) specify certain permitted uses of the revenues; and
- (3) generally amend the laws regarding emergency medical services in the County.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- N/A

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MEMORANDUM

March 12, 2026

TO: County Council

FROM: Christine Wellons, Chief Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Expedited Bill 6-26, Fire and Rescue Services - Emergency Medical Services Insurance Reimbursement Program - Use of Revenues

PURPOSE: Final action – roll call vote expected

Committee Recommendation: The Public Safety (PS) Committee recommended (3-0) the enactment of Expedited Bill 6-26 as introduced.

Expedited Bill 6-26, Fire and Rescue Services - Emergency Medical Services Insurance Reimbursement Program - Use of Revenues, was introduced on February 3, 2026. The Lead Sponsors are Councilmembers Luedtke, Katz, and Mink. The Co-Sponsors are Council President Fani-González, Councilmember Stewart, Council Vice President Balcombe, and Councilmembers Jawando, Sayles, Friedson, Evans, and Glass.

A public hearing occurred on February 24. A worksession of the Public Safety (PS) Committee occurred on March 9, at which the Committee recommended (3-0) the enactment of Expedited Bill 6-24.

Expedited Bill 6-24 would:

- (1) permit the authorized local fire and rescue department (LFRD) representative to receive revenues collected under the Emergency Medical Services Insurance Reimbursement Program under certain circumstances;
- (2) specify certain permitted uses of the revenues; and
- (3) generally amend the laws regarding emergency medical services in the County.

BACKGROUND

Effective January 1, 2013, [Bill 17-12E](#) and [Bill 17-13](#) authorized the Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service (MCFRS) to seek reimbursement for ambulance transports from private health insurance companies, Medicare, or Medicaid. Under the law, Montgomery County residents are not required to pay any out-of-pocket expenses (co-payment, deductible, or uninsured portion of the cost

of each emergency medical services transport) relating to emergency medical services transport services provided by MCFRS.

The revenue generated from the program (*i.e.*, the reimbursements from health insurance programs) is used to provide equipment, enhancement, and training for MCFRS and volunteer local fire and rescue departments (LFRDs) without additional cost and increased taxes on county residents. See [Emergency Medical Transportation Insurance Reimbursement Act: keeping the County Safe and Sound - Montgomery County, Maryland](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions - Emergency Medical Transportation Insurance Reimbursement Act - Montgomery County, Maryland](#).

The County law (Code Section 21-23A) contemplates that fifteen percent of the net EMST revenues will be allocated annually, through the County operating budget resolution, to support local fire and rescue departments (LFRDs). Historically, the authorized LFRD representative has entered into contracts with the County regarding the distribution of EMST funds. In 2025, however, a report from the Office of the Inspector General opined that any distribution of funds directly to the LFRD representative was inconsistent with the provisions of County Code as written. See [Improper Allocation of EMST funds to MCVFRA](#)

The purpose of Expedited Bill 6-26 is to explicitly permit the distribution of funds to the LFRD representative, for certain purposes in support of LFRDs, in accordance with the County's annual budget resolutions and any contracts entered into between the County and the LFRD representative.

BILL SPECIFICS

In accordance with the purpose described above, Expedited Bill 6-26 would provide that the annual operating budget resolution may require or authorize the distribution of EMST revenue for certain purposes to either or both: (i) the authorized LFRD representative; and (ii) individual local fire and rescue departments.

Furthermore, the Executive would expressly be permitted to enter into one or more contracts on behalf of the County to effectuate the distribution of the funds pursuant to the operating budget resolution.

The funds would continue to be used for the specific purposes of supporting LFRDs enumerated under Section 21-23A, including for:

- apparatus for LFRD;
- facilities for LFRDs;
- training for volunteers;
- gear and equipment for volunteers;
- administrative staff;
- volunteer recruitment and retention; and
- volunteer stand-by support.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT STATEMENTS

Fiscal Impact. According to the Office of Management and Budget, “Based on the bill language, there appears to be no direct fiscal impact to the County.”

Economic Impact. “The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that Expedited Bill 6-26 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County, as measured by the Council’s priority economic indicators. The Bill would allow the distribution of emergency medical services transport funds to representatives of local fire and rescue departments. This legislative action would not meaningfully affect economic conditions because it would codify existing practice. Additionally, revenue collected from this program imposes no additional cost or taxes on County residents.”

Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact. OLO “anticipates Expedited Bill 6-26 will have a minimal impact on racial equity and social justice (RESJ) in the County. Codifying the County’s existing practice of distributing emergency medical services transport revenues to the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association is not likely to meaningfully benefit or burden community members by race or ethnicity nor impact racial and social inequities in the County.” For this reason, OLO did not offer any amendments to Expedited Bill 6-26 regarding RESJ issues.

Climate Assessment. OLO “anticipates Expediting Bill 6-26 will have no impact on the County’s contribution to addressing climate change” and therefore does not recommend any climate related amendments.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Mr. Russell Hartung, President of the MCVFRA, testified in favor of the bill. Mr. Hartung stated that the purpose of the MCVFRA is to coordinate, standardize, and represent the LFRDs. The bill is a targeted clarification of County law to enable MCVFRA to fulfill this intended role with respect to the distribution and uses of EMST funds. The permitted uses of the funds are tightly defined by the bill and would ensure accountability.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE WORKSESSION

Participating in the worksession on March 9 were Mr. Hartung, President of MCVFRA, and Division Chief Del Pozzo, MCFRS. The Committee reviewed the purposes of the bill and voted (3-0) to recommend its enactment.

NEXT STEP: Roll call vote on whether to enact Expedited Bill 6-26, as recommended unanimously by the PS Committee.

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Expedited Bill No. 6-26
Concerning: Fire and Rescue Services –
Emergency Medical Services
Insurance Reimbursement Program –
Use of Revenues
Revised: 2/3/2026 Draft No. 2
Introduced: February 3, 2026
Expires: December 7, 2026
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: None
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Luedtke, Katz, and Mink
Co-Sponsor: Council President Fani-González, Councilmember Stewart, Council Vice President
Balcombe, and Councilmembers Jawando, Sayles, Friedson, Evans, and Glass

AN EXPEDITED ACT to:

- (1) permit the authorized local fire and rescue department (LFRD) representative to receive revenues collected under the Emergency Medical Services Insurance Reimbursement Program under certain circumstances;
- (2) specify certain permitted uses of the revenues; and
- (3) generally amend the laws regarding emergency medical services in the County.

By amending

Chapter 21, Fire and Rescue Services
Section 21-23A

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:

28 (h) *Use of Revenue.*

29 (1) Except for the transfer received from the General Fund under
 30 subsection (f), the revenues collected from the emergency medical
 31 services reimbursement must be used to supplement, and must not
 32 supplant, Fiscal Year 2013 expenditures appropriated in the annual
 33 operating budget resolution (not including any expenditures of
 34 revenue collected under this program in Fiscal Year 2013) for
 35 emergency medical services and other related fire and rescue
 36 services provided by the Fire and Rescue Service.

37 (2) The Fire Chief must create a dedicated account in the fire fund for
 38 the revenues collected from reimbursements under this Program.
 39 This amount must only be used for increased or enhanced fire and
 40 rescue services above the level appropriated in Fiscal Year 2013,
 41 as provided in paragraph (1), including new field service positions
 42 related to expansion of 4 person staffing or opening of new fire
 43 stations; increased training classes or capacity; facility
 44 maintenance and repair; new or replacement apparatus, gear, or
 45 equipment. Not more than 30 percent of this account may be spent
 46 for personnel costs.

47 (3) (A) Fifteen percent of the net Emergency Medical Services
 48 Insurance Reimbursement Program revenue must be
 49 allocated under a procedure specified in the annual
 50 operating budget resolution for [the benefit of local fire and
 51 rescue departments for]:

52 (i) replacement or augmentation of apparatus [owned]
 53 used by [a] one or more local fire and rescue
 54 [department] departments;

- 55 (ii) facilities [owned] used by [a] one or more local fire
- 56 and rescue [department] departments;
- 57 (iii) training for volunteers;
- 58 (iv) gear and equipment for volunteers;
- 59 (v) administrative staff, including administrative staff of
- 60 the authorized LFRD representative, to support [a]
- 61 one or more local fire and rescue [department]
- 62 departments;
- 63 (vi) volunteer recruitment and retention; and
- 64 (vii) volunteer stand-by support.
- 65 (B) Any administrative staff hired or retained by a local fire and
- 66 rescue department or the authorized LFRD representative
- 67 using revenue allocated under this Section is not a County
- 68 employee or a member of the separate merit system referred
- 69 to in Section 21-16(a).
- 70 (C) The annual operating budget resolution under subparagraph
- 71 (A) may require or authorize the distribution of revenue to
- 72 either or both:
- 73 (i) the authorized LFRD representative; and
- 74 (ii) individual local fire and rescue departments.
- 75 (D) The Executive may enter into one or more contracts on
- 76 behalf of the County to effectuate the distribution of funds
- 77 as specified under subparagraph (C).

* * *

79 **Sec. 2. Expedited Effective Date.** The Council declares that this Act is
 80 necessary for the immediate protection of the public interest. This Act takes effect on
 81 the date on which it becomes law.

Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

EXPEDITED BILL 6-26: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM - USE OF REVENUES

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Expedited Bill 6-26 will have a minimal impact on racial equity and social justice (RESJ) in the County. Codifying the County's existing practice of distributing emergency medical services transport revenues to the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association is not likely to meaningfully benefit or burden community members by race or ethnicity nor impact racial and social inequities in the County.

PURPOSE OF RESJ IMPACT STATEMENTS

RESJ impact statements (RESJIS) evaluate the anticipated impact of legislation on racial equity and social justice in the County. RESJ is a **process** that focuses on centering the needs, leadership, and power of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) and communities with low incomes. RESJ is also a **goal** of eliminating racial and social inequities. Applying a RESJ lens is essential to achieve RESJ.¹ This involves seeing, thinking, and working differently to address the racial and social inequities that cause racial and social disparities.²

PURPOSE OF EXPEDITED BILL 6-26

The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) provide emergency medical, fire and rescue services across the County. MCFRS provides these services through a combined career and volunteer system that operates out of 37 fire stations.³ Nineteen of these stations are local fire and rescue departments (LFRD) staffed by volunteer firefighters.⁴

To provide ambulance transports – or emergency medical services transports (EMST) – MCFRS bills health insurance providers. EMST revenues are used to provide equipment, enhancement, and training for MCFRS and LFRDs. County law requires that 15 percent of net EMST revenues be allocated annually to support LFRDs.⁵ Historically, the County has distributed these funds to the representative for the LFRDs, the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (MCFVRA).^{6,7}

In 2025, the County's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) found distributing EMST funds to the MCFVRA was inconsistent with County Code.⁸ The purpose of Bill 6-26 is to update County Code to respond to the OIG's finding. If enacted, Bill 6-26 would explicitly allow the distribution of EMST funds to the LFRD representative. The funds could continue to be used for the following purposes already established in County law:⁹

- Apparatus for LFRDs;
- Facilities for LFRDs;
- Training for volunteers;
- Gear and equipment for volunteers;
- Administrative staff;
- Volunteer recruitment and retention; and
- Volunteer stand-by support.

The Council introduced Expedited Bill 6-26 on February 3, 2026.

RESJ Impact Statement

Expedited Bill 6-26

In April 2024, OLO published a RESJIS for Bill 9-24, Group G Pension – Social Security Integration.¹⁰ Please read this RESJIS for background on fire personnel and racial equity.

ANTICIPATED RESJ IMPACTS

To consider the anticipated impact of Bill 6-26 on RESJ in the County, OLO recommends the consideration of two related questions:

- Who would primarily benefit or be burdened by this bill?
- What racial and social inequities could passage of this bill weaken or strengthen?

OLO anticipates Bill 6-26 will have a minimal impact on RESJ in the County. Bill 6-26 would codify the County’s existing practice of distributing EMST revenues to the MCVFRA. This is not likely to meaningfully benefit or burden community members by race or ethnicity nor impact racial and social inequities in the County.

RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

The County’s RESJ Act requires OLO to consider whether to recommend amendments to bills that could reduce racial and social inequities and advance RESJ.¹¹ OLO anticipates Expedited Bill 6-26 will have a minimal impact on RESJ in the County. As such, OLO does not offer recommended amendments.

CAVEATS

Two caveats to this RESJIS should be noted. First, predicting the impact of bills on RESJ is challenging due to data limitations, uncertainty, and other factors. Second, this RESJIS is intended to inform the Council’s decision-making process rather than determine it. Thus, any conclusion made in this statement does not represent OLO’s endorsement of, or objection to, the bill under consideration.

¹ Definition of racial equity and social justice adopted from [Marlysa Gamblin et al., “Applying Racial Equity to U.S. Federal Nutrition Programs,” Bread for the World](#) and [Racial Equity Tools](#).

² Ibid.

³ [“Fire and Rescue Service,”](#) Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government.

⁴ [Home](#), Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association.

⁵ [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 6-26](#), Montgomery County Council, Introduced February 3, 2026, pgs. 1-2.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ [“Councilmembers Luedtke, Katz, and Mink Introduce Bill to Support Volunteer Firefighters,”](#) Press Release, Montgomery County Council, February 3, 2026.

⁸ [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 6-26](#), pg. 2.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ [RESJIS for Bill 9-24](#), Office of Legislative Oversight, April 26, 2024.

¹¹ [Bill 27-19, Administration – Human Rights – Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice – Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee – Established, Montgomery County Council.](#)



Fiscal Impact Statement

Office of Management and Budget

Bill 6-26

Fire and Rescue Services - Emergency Medical Services Insurance Reimbursement Program - Use of Revenues

Bill Summary

Expedited Bill 6-26 amends Section 21-16 of the County Code to clarify the permissible distribution of Emergency Medical Services Transport (EMST) revenues allocated to Local Fire and Rescue Departments (LFRDs). The bill authorizes the annual operating budget resolution to require or permit distribution of the 15 percent LFRD allocation either directly to individual LFRDs and/or to the authorized LFRD representative. The bill further authorizes the Executive to enter into one or more contracts to implement this distribution. The amendment also clarifies that administrative staff funded through this allocation, whether hired by an individual LFRD or by the authorized LFRD representative, are not County employees and are not subject to the County merit system.

Fiscal Impact Summary

The bill clarifies and authorizes distribution mechanisms for existing EMST revenues but does not modify the EMST rate, the 15 percent allocation formula, or the allowable uses of those funds. Based on the bill language, there appears to be no direct fiscal impact to the County. The amendment does not create new appropriations, new revenue, or new programmatic requirements. Any administrative actions associated with contract execution or oversight are expected to be absorbable within existing resources.

Fiscal Impact Analysis

The bill does not require new positions, appropriations, or budget adjustments. The amendment relates solely to the distribution mechanism of existing EMST revenues and does not increase the overall funding allocation or expand allowable uses beyond those already permitted under current law.

The Office of the Inspector General previously identified concerns related to oversight and financial management of EMST funds distributed to the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association. While this bill does not create a direct fiscal impact, oversight, reporting, and financial controls are central to mitigate continued fiscal risk exposure.

Staff Impact

The bill is not expected to materially impact staffing levels. Any contract administration or oversight responsibilities are anticipated to be managed within existing departmental resources.

Actuarial Analysis

The bill is not expected to impact retiree pension or group insurance costs.

Information Technology Impact

The bill is not expected to impact the County Information Technology (IT) or Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems.

Other Information

Later actions that may impact revenue or expenditures if future spending is projected

The bill does not authorize future spending.

Sources of information

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue



Contributors

Vivian Ikoro, Office of Management and Budget
Dan Zoberbier, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue



Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

EXPEDITED BILL 6-26: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES – EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM – USE OF REVENUES

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Expedited Bill 6-26 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as it is proposing a change to the County Code to reflect an existing practice of distributing emergency medical services transports revenue.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF EXPEDITED BILL 6-26

The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) provide emergency medical, fire and rescue services across the County. MCFRS provides these services through a combined career and volunteer system that operates out of 37 fire stations.¹ Nineteen of these stations are local fire and rescue departments (LFRD) staffed by volunteer firefighters.²

To provide ambulance transports – or emergency medical services transports (EMST) – MCFRS bills health insurance providers. EMST revenues are used to provide equipment, enhancement, and training for MCFRS and LFRDs. County law requires that 15 percent of net EMST revenues be allocated annually to support LFRDs.³ Historically, the County has distributed these funds to the representative for the LFRDs, the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (MCFVRA).^{4,5}

In 2025, the County's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) found distributing EMST funds to the MCFVRA was inconsistent with County Code.⁶ The purpose of Bill 6-26 is to update County Code to respond to the OIG's finding. If enacted, Bill 6-26 would explicitly allow the distribution of EMST funds to the LFRD representative. The funds could continue to be used for the following purposes already established in County law:⁷

- Apparatus for LFRDs;
- Facilities for LFRDs;
- Training for volunteers;
- Gear and equipment for volunteers;
- Administrative staff;
- Volunteer recruitment and retention; and
- Volunteer stand-by support.

The Council introduced Expedited Bill 6-26 on February 3, 2026.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the Bill is proposing a change to the County Code to reflect an existing practice of distributing emergency medical services transports revenue, OLO anticipates Expedited Bill 6-26 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change, including the reduction and/or sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions, community resilience, and adaptative capacity.

RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

The Climate Assessment Act requires OLO to offer recommendations, such as amendments or other measures to mitigate any anticipated negative climate impacts.⁸ OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Expedited Bill 6-26 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, community resilience, and adaptative capacity.

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 improve the County's adaptative capacity to climate change, and therefore, increase community 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 ["Fire and Rescue Service,"](#) Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government.

² [Home](#), Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association.

³ [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 6-26](#), Montgomery County Council, Introduced February 3, 2026, pgs. 1-2.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ ["Councilmembers Luedtke, Katz, and Mink Introduce Bill to Support Volunteer Firefighters,"](#) Press Release, Montgomery County Council, February 3, 2026.

⁶ [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 6-26](#), pg. 2.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Bill 3-22, Legislative Branch – Climate Assessments – Required, Montgomery County Council, Effective date October 24, 2022

Economic Impact Statement

Montgomery County, Maryland

Expedited Bill 6-26, Fire and Rescue Services - Emergency Medical Services Insurance Reimbursement Program - Use of Revenues

Summary

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that Expedited Bill 6-26 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County, as measured by the Council's priority economic indicators. The Bill would allow the distribution of emergency medical services transport funds to representatives of local fire and rescue departments. This legislative action would not meaningfully affect economic conditions because it would codify existing practice. Additionally, revenue collected from this program imposes no additional cost or taxes on County residents.

Background and Purpose of Expedited Bill 6-26

The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) provide emergency medical, fire and rescue services across the County through a combined career and volunteer system that operates out of 37 fire stations.¹ Nineteen of these stations are local fire and rescue departments (LFRD) staffed by volunteer firefighters.²

To provide ambulance transports – or emergency medical services transports (EMST) – MCFRS bills health insurance providers. EMST revenues are used to provide equipment, enhancement, and training for MCFRS and LFRDs. County law requires that 15 percent of net EMST revenues be allocated annually to support LFRDs.³ Historically, the County has distributed these funds to the representative for the LFRDs, the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (MCVFRA).^{4,5}

In 2025, the County's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) found that distributing EMST funds to the MCVFRA was inconsistent with County Code.⁶ The purpose of Bill 6-26 is to update County Code to respond to the OIG's finding. If enacted, Bill 6-26 would explicitly allow the distribution of EMST funds to the LFRD representative. The funds could be used for the following purposes already established in County law:⁷

- Apparatus for LFRDs;
- Facilities for LFRDs;
- Training for volunteers;
- Gear and equipment for volunteers;

¹ ["Fire and Rescue Service,"](#) Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government.

² [Home](#), Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association.

³ [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 6-26](#), Montgomery County Council, Introduced February 3, 2026, pgs. 1-2.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ ["Councilmembers Luedtke, Katz, and Mink Introduce Bill to Support Volunteer Firefighters,"](#) Press Release, Montgomery County Council, February 3, 2026.

⁶ [Introduction Staff Report for Expedited Bill 6-26](#), pg. 2.

⁷ Ibid.

- Administrative staff;
- Volunteer recruitment and retention; and
- Volunteer stand-by support.

The Council introduced Expedited Bill 6-26 on February 3, 2026.

Information Sources, Methodologies, and Assumptions

As required by Section 2-81B of the Montgomery County Code, this Economic Impact Statement evaluates the impacts of Expedited Bill 6-26 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.⁸

The Bill would allow the distribution of emergency medical services transport funds to representatives of local fire and rescue departments. This legislative action would codify existing practice and revenue collected from this program imposes no additional cost or taxes on County residents. Therefore, OLO concludes that it would have no meaningful economic impacts on residents or local businesses.

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

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.

⁸ Montgomery County Code, “[Sec. 2-81B, Economic Impact Statements.](#)”