



Committee: PS
Committee Review: At a future date
Staff: Jim Ogorzalek, Legislative Attorney
Purpose: To receive testimony – no vote expected

AGENDA ITEM #4
July 14, 2026
Public Hearing

SUBJECT

Bill 27-26, Motor Vehicles and Traffic – Unlawful Racing and Street Takeovers Prohibited

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Friedson

Co-Sponsors: Council Vice President Balcombe, and Councilmembers Katz and Luedtke

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Members of the public

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Receive public testimony

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Bill 27-26 would:

- (1) prohibit participation in unlawful racing and street takeovers on public highways or roadways;
- (2) define certain terms related to unlawful racing and street takeovers;
- (3) establish penalties for such violations; and
- (4) generally amend the law regarding motor vehicles and traffic.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

N/A

This report contains:

Staff Report

Bill 27-26

Fiscal Impact Statement

Pages 1–2

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MEMORANDUM

July 9, 2026

TO: County Council

FROM: Jim Ogorzalek, Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Bill 27-26, Motor Vehicles and Traffic – Unlawful Racing and Street Takeovers Prohibited

PURPOSE: To receive testimony – no Council vote expected

Bill 27-26, Motor Vehicles and Traffic – Unlawful Racing and Street Takeovers Prohibited, was introduced on June 16, 2026. Its Lead Sponsor is Councilmember Friedson. The bill's Co-Sponsors are Council Vice President Balcombe, and Councilmembers Katz and Luedtke. A public hearing is scheduled for July 14, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. A worksession of the Public Safety (PS) Committee is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Bill 27-26 would:

- (1) prohibit participation in unlawful racing and street takeovers on public highways or roadways;
- (2) define certain terms related to unlawful racing and street takeovers;
- (3) establish penalties for such violations; and
- (4) generally amend the law regarding motor vehicles and traffic.

Background

In response to recent instances racing, speed contests, and exhibition driving, the General Assembly enacted legislation increasing penalties for participation in racing or speed contests and prohibited exhibition driving, all in certain circumstances as defined under State law. In 2026, the Prince George's County Council enacted a similar law consistent with state law aimed at prohibiting unlawful speed contests, exhibition driving, stunt driving or race contests. No similar law exists in the Montgomery County Code.

Bill Specifics

Bill 27-26 would prohibit the participation in unlawful racing and street takeovers on public highways or roadways, defining, as necessary, certain terms. The bill establishes that any violation of the new prohibitions is a Class A criminal penalty under the County Code.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT STATEMENTS*

Fiscal Impact. “The bill is expected to have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD), primarily through potential personnel and operational workload associated with enforcement. The bill authorizes the seizure, towing, and storage of vehicles used in connection with violations. Based on information from MCPD, towing and storage activity is expected to be cost-neutral or potentially revenue-positive due to existing cost-recovery mechanisms. Because enforcement expectations, operational tempo, incident volume, and the number of potential vehicle impoundments have not yet been established, the fiscal impact cannot be quantified at this time.”

This packet contains:

Bill 27-26

Fiscal Impact Statement

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*The Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statement, Economic Impact Statement, and Climate Assessment were not available at the time of publication of this staff report. They can be found at the below address when available: [Racial Equity and Social Justice, Economic, and Climate Impact Statements - Office of Legislative Oversight - Montgomery County, Maryland \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/Racial-Equity-and-Social-Justice-Economic-and-Climate-Impact-Statements)

Bill No. 27-26
Concerning: Motor Vehicles and Traffic –
Unlawful Racing and Street
Takeovers - Prohibited
Revised: 7/9/2026 Draft No. 2
Introduced: June 16, 2026
Expiration: December 7, 2026
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: _____
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Friedson
Co-Sponsors: Council Vice President Balcombe, and Councilmembers Katz and Luedtke

AN ACT to:

- (1) prohibit participation in unlawful racing and street takeovers on public highways or roadways;
- (2) define certain terms related to unlawful racing and street takeovers;
- (3) establish penalties for such violations; and
- (4) generally amend the law regarding motor vehicles and traffic.

By adding
Montgomery County Code
Chapter 31, Motor Vehicles and Traffic
Section 31-9F

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 31-9F is added as follows:**

2 **Sec. 31-9F. Unlawful Racing and Street Takeovers Prohibited.**

3 (a) Definitions. In this section, the following words and phrases have the
4 meanings indicated:

5 Exhibition driving has the meaning set forth in Section 21-1116.1 of the
6 Transportation Article of the Maryland Code, as amended.

7 Lawful order to disperse means an order issued by a law enforcement officer
8 directing people to leave a defined area because the officer has reasonable
9 grounds to believe an unlawful race or a street takeover is occurring or about to
10 occur.

11 Motor vehicle means a vehicle that is self-propelled, including two or four-
12 wheel vehicles or all-terrain vehicles; motorcycles, mopeds, minibikes, dirt
13 bikes, scooters; and any other means of land transportation deriving motor
14 power from any source other than muscle or wind.

15 Participant means any person, in or outside a vehicle, who purposefully slows,
16 stops, or impedes, or attempts to slow, stop, or impede, the movement of traffic,
17 including pedestrian traffic, for the purpose of a speed contest, stunt driving,
18 exhibition driving, or street takeover. Participant includes any person who aids,
19 abets, promotes, organizes, or attends a speed contest, stunt driving, exhibition
20 driving, or street takeover.

21 Street takeover means a coordinated gathering of persons, including persons in
22 motor vehicles, that results in the intentional disruption of the movement of
23 motor vehicles on the highway or roadway or the movement of public safety
24 vehicles within the County, such as vehicles performing burnouts, drifting,
25 spinning, doughnuts, acceleration exhibitions, or other similar maneuvers that
26 create a substantial risk of injury on any county highway.

Stunt driving means any motor vehicle performing or engaging in burnouts, doughnuts, drifting, or wheelies, or allowing a passenger to ride either partially or fully outside the vehicle while operating that vehicle.

Unlawful race or speed contest means any race, speed contest, acceleration contest, or competitive exhibition of speed or acceleration involving one or more motor vehicles not authorized by law.

(b) Prohibited Conduct.

(1) A person must not engage in an unlawful race, speed contest, street takeover, exhibition driving event, or stunt driving event on any highway or roadway.

(2) A person must not participate as a timekeeper, flagger, participant, or starter in an unlawful race, speed contest, street takeover, exhibition driving event, or stunt driving event on any highway or roadway.

(3) A person must not aid, abet, promote, or organize an unlawful race, speed contest, street takeover, exhibition driving event, or stunt driving event.

(4) A person must not remain in a defined area after a lawful order to disperse has been issued by a law enforcement official.

(d) Any violation of this section or any regulation issued under it is a Class A violation and may be punished as a misdemeanor.

(e) A motor vehicle used in violation of this section may be taken into possession by County police or other authorized person designated by the County Executive and may be towed and stored in accordance with applicable law.



Fiscal Impact Statement

Office of Management and Budget

Bill 27-26

Motor Vehicles and Traffic - Unlawful Racing and Street Takeovers Prohibited

Bill Summary

Bill 27-26 would prohibit unlawful racing, speed contests, exhibition driving, stunt driving, and street takeovers on public highways or roadways. The bill defines relevant terms, establishes violations as Class A violations that may be punished as misdemeanors, and authorizes the seizure, towing, and storage of vehicles used in connection with these violations.

Fiscal Impact Summary

The bill is expected to have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD), primarily through potential personnel and operational workload associated with enforcement. The bill authorizes the seizure, towing, and storage of vehicles used in connection with violations. Based on information from MCPD, towing and storage activity is expected to be cost-neutral or potentially revenue-positive due to existing cost-recovery mechanisms. Because enforcement expectations, operational tempo, incident volume, and the number of potential vehicle impoundments have not yet been established, the fiscal impact cannot be quantified at this time.

Towing and Storage Costs

The bill authorizes vehicle impoundment for violations. Each impoundment may initially result in towing, storage, letter, and administrative processing costs under existing County procedures or contracts.

However, based on information from MCPD, these costs are expected to be recoverable through one or more existing mechanisms:

- direct payment by the vehicle owner upon retrieval;
- proceeds from the public auction of unclaimed vehicles; or
- collection through State-authorized administrative flagging.

Fiscal Impact Analysis

MCPD indicated that administrative flags do not impose a fee on the County and may generate revenue when outstanding costs are collected. The Department also noted that vehicles involved in street-racing activity are likely to be in recoverable or saleable condition and may be retrieved by the owner or sold at public auction. Accordingly, towing and storage activity is not anticipated to produce a net cost to the County and may generate additional revenue depending on the number of vehicles impounded and recovered.

Revenue Impact

The bill may result in additional revenue associated with vehicle recovery activity, including owner-paid towing and storage charges, public auction proceeds for unclaimed vehicles, and administrative flag collections. However, because the number of future impoundments is unknown, any potential revenue cannot be quantified at this time and is not assumed as an offset to personnel-related enforcement costs. Potential fine revenue is also not quantified because enforcement expectations,



citation volume, case outcomes, and collection rates are unknown.

Personnel and Enforcement Costs

The primary fiscal impact is expected to arise from police enforcement. Street racing and street takeover incidents may require multiple officers, traffic control, incident management, and follow-up documentation. Depending on enforcement frequency, the bill may result in:

- additional patrol or traffic officer deployment time;
- overtime for nighttime or weekend enforcement activity;
- increased court attendance related to criminal proceedings;
- additional administrative workload associated with case processing and impound documentation.

The County has not yet established anticipated enforcement expectations or operational tempo. As a result, a quantitative estimate of personnel-related costs is not possible at this time.

Staff Impact

The bill does not mandate new positions. However, enforcement activity may require shifts in deployment and may increase overtime if incidents occur outside regular operating hours. Records personnel, towing-processing staff, and court-related administrative staff may experience additional workload depending on enforcement volume.

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 itself authorize future spending, create a new program, or require new positions. Future expenditures would depend on enforcement volume and operational decisions by the Montgomery County Police Department.

Contributors

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