



Committee: HHS
Committee Review: Completed
Staff: Jim Ogorzalek, Legislative Attorney
Purpose: Final action – vote expected

AGENDA ITEM #4A
September 15, 2026
Action

SUBJECT

Bill 28-26, Health and Sanitation – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission – Membership; appointment; terms – Amendments

Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Luedtke and Evans

Co-Sponsors: Council President Fani-González, Council Vice President Balcombe, and Councilmembers Friedson, Stewart, Sayles, Katz, Mink, and Jawando

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

N/A

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- The Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee recommends (3-0) the enactment of Bill 28-26, with an amendment.
- The Council will hold a roll call vote on the HHS Committee recommendation to enact Bill 28-26, as amended.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Bill 28-26 would:

- (1) revise the membership structure of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission; and
- (2) generally amend the law regarding the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

N/A

This report contains:

Staff Report	Pages 1–2
Bill 28-26	© 1
IDDC Memorandum to County Executive and County Council	© 4
Fiscal Impact Statement	© 8
Climate Assessment	© 9
Economic Impact Statement	© 12
Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statement	© 15

Alternative format requests for people with disabilities. If you need assistance accessing this report you may [submit alternative format requests](#) to the ADA Compliance Manager. The ADA Compliance Manager can also be reached at 240-777-6197 (TTY 240-777-6196) or at adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov

MEMORANDUM

September 10, 2026

TO: County Council

FROM: Jim Ogorzalek, Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Bill 28-26, Health and Sanitation – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Commission – Membership; appointment; terms – Amendments

PURPOSE: Action – roll call vote expected

Committee Recommendation: The Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee voted (3-0) to recommend the enactment of Bill 28-26, with an amendment.

Bill 28-26, Health and Sanitation – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission – Membership; appointment; terms – Amendments, was introduced on June 16, 2026. Its Lead Sponsors are Councilmembers Luedtke and Evans. Its Co-Sponsors are Council President Fani-González, Council Vice President Balcombe, and Councilmembers Friedson, Stewart, Sayles, Katz, Mink, and Jawando. A public hearing occurred on July 14, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. The Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee considered the bill on Thursday, July 23, 2026 and recommended (3-0) the enactment of the bill, with an amendment.

Bill 28-26 would:

- (1) revise the membership structure of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission; and
- (2) generally amend the law regarding the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission.

Background

In 2023, the Council established the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (“IDD”) Commission to advise the County Council and County Executive, and to better coordinate the provision of services to individuals with IDD and their families. The Committee, which receives staff support from the Department of Health and Human Services (M.C.C. § 24-76), is required to perform certain enumerated duties (M.C.C. § 24-74) and submit an annual “report to the County Executive and County Council summarizing its activities, needs, recommendations and the degree to which the goals of the Commission are being met” (M.C.C. § 24-75(e)). As presently

constituted, the Commission consists of 19 voting members and 6 non-voting members (designees of certain entities). The requirements for the 19 voting members are as follows: 2 individuals with IDD; 9 family members, guardians, or support staff of individuals with IDD; 7 individuals representing service providers or advocacy organizations that support individuals with IDD; and 1 member of the Commission on People with Disabilities.

Bill Specifics

Bill 28-26 would revise the voting-member structure—specifically expanding and updating the 11 members who must either be individuals with IDD (2) or family members, guardians, or support staff of individuals with IDD (9). The revised structure—which was requested by the Commission in a memorandum to the County Executive and County Council—is intended “to update the Commission’s membership structure to align with best practices in disability governance and ensure equitable, meaningful representation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families,” according to the Commission. As revised, the Commission would be expanded to 23 voting members with the following composition: 5 individuals with IDD; 5 individuals who are parents or guardians of children with IDD or guardians or immediate relatives of adults with IDD who cannot advocate for themselves; 5 individuals who are either individuals with IDD or parents or guardians of children with IDD or guardians or immediate relatives of adults with IDD who cannot advocate for themselves; 7 individuals representing service providers or advocacy organizations that support individuals with IDD; and 1 member of the Commission on People with Disabilities. The bill also requires that at least 3 of the 15 members composing the first three categories must be individuals who participate in Self-Directed Services, as defined under State law.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT STATEMENTS

Fiscal impact. According to the Office of Management and Budget, Bill 28-26 “is not expected to impact County expenditures.”

Climate Assessment. “The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 28-26 will have no impact on the County’s contribution to addressing climate change as it is proposing the expansion of an existing commission whose responsibilities do not include activities related to climate change or community climate resilience.”

Economic Impact. “The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that Bill 28-26 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County, as measured by the Council’s priority economic indicators.”

Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact. “The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 28-26 would have a positive impact on racial equity and social justice (RESJ) in the County. Expanding the representation of community members who are directly impacted by intellectual and development disabilities (IDD) on the IDD Commission would advance social justice by improving the Commission’s effectiveness to address social inequities experienced by community members with IDD. However, given the lack of focus on racial equity in the Commission’s composition and scope, it is unclear whether Bill 28-26 would help address racial

inequities and disparities experienced by Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) community members with IDD.”

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A public hearing was held on July 14, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. All speakers—each of whom indicated some current or former relationship to the IDD Commission—testified in favor of the bill.

SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE WORKSESSION

The Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee considered the bill on July 23, 2026, and recommended (3-0) the enactment of the bill, with an amendment.

1. Name of Bill

At introduction, lead sponsor Councilmember Luedtke announced an intent to name the bill in honor of Jake Didinsky. The Committee adopted the amendment offered by Councilmember Luedtke.

Add lines 36–37, as follows:

Sec. 2. Short title. This bill may be known as “The Jake Didinsky Advocacy Act.”

Next Step:¹ Roll call vote on whether to enact Bill 28-26.

This packet contains:

	<u>Circle #</u>
Bill 28-26	1
IDDC Memorandum to County Executive and County Council	4
Fiscal Impact Statement	8
Climate Assessment	9
Economic Impact Statement	12
Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statement	15

¹ The Council authorizes Council Legislative Attorneys to make non-substantive technical corrections necessary to fix any typographical, stylistic, formatting, or grammatical errors in Bill 28-26.

Bill No. 28-26
Concerning: Health and Sanitation –
Intellectual and Developmental
Disabilities Commission –
Membership; appointment; terms –
Amendments
Revised: 9/9/2026 Draft No. 3
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 Sponsors: Councilmembers Luedtke and Evans
Co-Sponsors: Council President Fani-González, Council Vice President Balcombe, and
Councilmembers Friedson, Stewart, Sayles, Katz, Mink, and Jawando

AN ACT to:

- (1) revise the membership structure of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission; and
- (2) generally amend the law regarding the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission.

By amending

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 24, Health and Sanitation
Sections 24-71 and 24-73

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:

Sec. 1. Sections 24-71 and 24-73 are amended as follows:

Sec. 24-71. Definitions and Policy Statement.

* * *

Commission means the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission established under this Article.

* * *

Self-Directed Services has the meaning set forth in Section 7-101 of the Health – General Article of the Maryland Code, as amended.

* * *

Sec. 24-73. Membership; appointment; terms.

(a) The Commission consists of [19] 23 voting members and 6 non-voting members.

(b) The voting members are appointed by the County Executive, subject to Council confirmation, and must include:

(1) [2] 5 individuals with IDD;

(2) [9 family members, guardians, or support staff of individuals with IDD] 5 individuals who are parents or guardians of children with IDD or guardians or immediate relatives of adults with IDD who cannot advocate for themselves;

(3) 5 individuals who are either individuals with IDD or parents or guardians of children with IDD or guardians or immediate relatives of adults with IDD who cannot advocate for themselves;

(4) 7 individuals representing service providers or advocacy organizations that support individuals with IDD; and

[(4)] (5) [1] one member of the Commission on People with Disabilities.

At least 3 of the 15 members under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection must be individuals who participate in Self-Directed Services.

(c) The non-voting members are designees of the following agencies:

- (1) Department of Health and Human Services;
- (2) Department of Recreation;
- (3) Montgomery County Public Schools;
- (4) Montgomery College;
- (5) WorkSource Montgomery; and
- (6) Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration.

Sec. 2. Short title. This bill may be known as “The Jake Didinsky Advocacy

Act.”

IDDC Request for Legislation (open)

Requested by Crystel Britto • crystel.britto@montgomerycountymd.gov

Crystel

Britto

Assigned to Christine Wellons (Staff)

Created at Feb 4, 2026 10:11 AM

Last updated at Feb 4, 2026 12:00 PM

Tags Dropdown: Bills::Bills GEN

Has attachment?: true

Letter Summary: Request by MC IDDC for legislation to update membership structure

Crystel Britto

Feb 4, 2026 10:11 AM

Dear County Council President and Councilmembers,
On behalf of the Montgomery County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission (IDDC), we respectfully request that the County Executive and County Council introduce legislation to update the Commission's membership structure to align with best practices in disability governance and ensure equitable, meaningful representation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

Please see the attached letter.

Sincerely,

Crystel Britto, LCMFT (she, her, hers)

Program Manager II, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission Liaison

Montgomery County HHS/Aging & Disability Services

(240) 753-4218

[IDDC Legislation Request.pdf \(application/pdf\)](#)



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission

Marc Elrich
County Executive

James C. Bridgers, Jr., Ph.D., MBA
Director

1/29/2026

The Honorable Marc Elrich
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Members of the Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Request for Legislation to Update the Membership Structure of the Montgomery County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission (IDDC)

Dear County Executive Elrich and Members of the County Council:

On behalf of the Montgomery County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission (IDDC), we respectfully request that the County Executive and County Council introduce legislation to update the Commission's membership structure to align with best practices in disability governance and ensure equitable, meaningful representation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

After extensive review, the IDDC has concluded that its current composition does not adequately reflect the principle at the core of the disability rights movement: *"Nothing About Us, Without Us."* Advisory bodies across the country have historically marginalized the voices of people with IDD by placing them in the minority, often without sufficient voting power to influence policy decisions that directly affect their lives. The Commission seeks to correct this imbalance.

The proposed membership structure embeds lived experience at the center of decision-making. It reflects a model used successfully for more than fifty years by State Developmental Disabilities Councils established under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act). The DD Act requires that at least 60% of Council members be individuals with developmental disabilities or their family members, ensuring that those most impacted by policy decisions hold a determinative voice. This structure has proven effective nationwide in advancing rights-based reforms, expanding community services, and improving the responsiveness of government systems to the people they serve.

Following this precedent, the Commission proposes increasing its voting membership from 19 to **23 voting members, composed as follows:**

- **Constituency A: People with IDD and Family Members – 15 seats (65%)**
 - 5 seats for self-advocates

- 5 seats for family members, guardians, or support staff
 - 5 mixed-designation seats (self-advocate or family/guardian/support staff)
- At least 3 of the Constituency A seats must be filled by individuals who receive—or participate in—the Self-Directed Services (SDS) system

- **Constituency B: Service Providers and Advocacy Organizations – 7 seats (30%)**
- **Commission on People with Disabilities (CPD) Member – 1 seat (4%)**

Consistent with the DD Act model, family members of adults with IDD should serve only when the adult cannot advocate for themselves. This respectful, person-centered approach upholds self-determination while ensuring that individuals who cannot participate still have meaningful representation. To support this process, the Commission should rely on the iTACC “[Guidance to Determine Membership in Alignment with DD Act Requirements](#)”, which provides clear, federally aligned criteria for determining when a family member may appropriately serve in place of an adult with IDD.

The proposed approach ensures strong self-advocate representation, prevents tokenism, and incorporates the perspectives of people using Self-Directed Services—an increasingly significant portion of the disability community. The structure also preserves a meaningful, but not dominant, role for providers and advocacy organizations.

This proposal was shaped by the leadership and lived experience of Commissioner **Jake Didinsky**, one of only two self-advocates with IDD who served on the inaugural IDD Commission. Jake’s consistent and thoughtful contributions highlighted the need for a structure that places people with IDD at the center of decision-making rather than at the margins. His advocacy and example were instrumental in guiding the Commission toward a model that fully recognizes the expertise of lived experience. In recognition of his impact, should legislation to update the Commission’s membership be introduced, the IDDC respectfully requests that it be named in his honor.

This proposed structure also allows for a smooth and practical transition from the current 19-member voting composition to the expanded 23-member model. Because the framework includes mixed-designation seats and clearly defined categories, existing members who meet the new criteria can continue their service without disruption. The flexible seat structure also enables the Nominations Committee to phase in new members as terms expire, ensuring continuity, stability, and respect for the contributions of current Commissioners while moving the IDDC toward a more equitable and representative membership model.

We believe these revisions will strengthen the effectiveness, legitimacy, and equity of the IDDC. They will also position Montgomery County as a leader in participatory disability governance—one that honors the expertise of lived experience and ensures that policy recommendations are grounded in the real needs of the community.

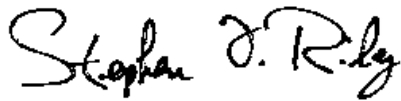
For these reasons, the IDDC formally requests that the County Executive and County Council introduce and adopt legislation updating the Commission’s membership structure as outlined above.

We appreciate your continued commitment to ensuring that Montgomery County is a place where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live, work, and thrive as full members of the

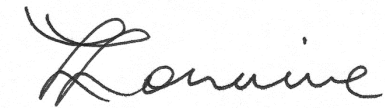
community. The Commission stands ready to assist with drafting, testimony, or any additional information needed.

Sincerely,

Montgomery County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission (IDDC)



Stephen F. Riley, Chair, IDDC



Lisa Lorraine, Chair of the Policies and Programs Committee, IDDC

Commissioners:

Carmen Smith
Carmen Zahra
Dorne Hill
Eric Salzano
Jenn Lynn
Jillian Copeland
John Whittle
Justin Hack

Karla Nabors
Lisa Klem
Lisa Lorraine
Lori Mitchell-Keller
Dr. Margaret Cage
Melita Bell
Miles Cox
Najla Wortham

Onesta Duke
Patrick (Rick) Callahan
Stephen (Steve) Riley
Susan Hartung
Swapnika Madhavaram
Tracy Craig
Yvonne VanLowe



Fiscal Impact Statement

Office of Management and Budget

Bill 28-26

Bill 28-26, Health and Sanitation - Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission - Membership; appointment; terms - Amendments

Bill Summary

Bill 28-26 revises the membership structure of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission (IDDC) and generally amends the law regarding the IDDC. The bill increases the number of voting members from 19 to 23 by specifically expanding the membership to include individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD) or family members, guardians, or support staff of individuals with IDD, and requiring that three of those members participate in Self-Directed Services. The Commission requested this change to align with best practices in disability governance and ensure equitable, meaningful representation of people with IDD and their families.

Fiscal Impact Summary

The bill is not expected to impact County expenditures.

Fiscal Impact Analysis

The bill revises the membership structure of the IDDC and does not have a fiscal impact.

Staff Impact

The expanded membership proposed in the bill may increase the workload of current staff; however, this increase is expected to be manageable within existing capacity. The actual workload impact will depend on the priorities established by the expanded IDDC and the issues the Commission elects to address moving forward.

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.

Contributors

Kim Mayo, Department of Health and Human Services
Hamza Ahmed, Office of Management and Budget



Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

BILL 28-26: HEALTH AND SANITATION – INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMISSION – MEMBERSHIP; APPOINTMENT; TERMS - AMENDMENTS

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 28-26 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as it is proposing the expansion of an existing commission whose responsibilities do not include activities related to climate change or community climate resilience.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 28-26

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development describes intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) as “differences that are usually present at birth and that uniquely affect the trajectory of the individual's physical, intellectual, and/or emotional development.” IDD can affect multiple body parts or systems, such as the nervous system, sensory system, and metabolism. Examples of IDD include cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and autism spectrum disorders (ASD).¹

The IDD Commission is a County-sponsored group that focuses on supporting community members with IDD. The 25-member commission includes members of the IDD community, service providers and advocacy organizations that support community members with IDD, and agency representatives.² The commission is responsible for:³

- Promoting direct communication among families, organizations, and the public on programs and services for community members with IDD;
- Conducting educational programs to promote the welfare of community members with IDD; and
- Advising the County on matters involving the needs of community members with IDD, among other duties.

The IDD commission holds regular meetings that are open to the public.⁴

The purpose of Bill 28-26 is to expand the representation of members of the IDD community on the IDD Commission. Currently, 11 of the commission's 19 voting members represent community members with IDD (2 seats) and family members, guardians, or support staff of community members with IDD (9 seats). If enacted, Bill 28-26 would expand this group from 11 to 15 members and designate the seats follows:⁵

- Five are community members with IDD;
- Five are parents, immediate relatives, or guardians of community members with IDD; and
- Five are community members with IDD or parents, immediate relatives, or guardians of community members with IDD.

Additionally, at least three of these fifteen members must represent community members who participate in Self-Directed Services.⁶

Of note, seven voting members of the commission would continue to represent service providers or advocacy organizations that support community members with IDD, and one would continue to be a member of the Commission on People with Disabilities. The commission would also continue to include six non-voting members that represent various departments and agencies.⁷

The IDD Commission requested the changes in Bill 28-26. According to the commission, they aim “to update the commission’s membership to align with best practices in disability governance and ensure equitable, meaningful representation of people with [IDD] and their families.”⁸

The Council introduced Bill 28-26 on June 16, 2026.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the Bill proposes the expansion of an existing commission whose responsibilities do not include activities related to climate change or community climate resilience, OLO anticipates Bill 28-26 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.⁹ OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Bill 28-26 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 ["About Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \(IDDs\)."](#) National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health.

² ["Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission,"](#) Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.

³ [Bill 10-23: Health – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission – Established,](#) Montgomery County Council, Effective July 10, 2023.

⁴ Events, ["Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission."](#)

⁵ [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 28-26,](#) Montgomery County Council, Introduced June 16, 2026, pgs. 2 and (2)-(3).

⁶ Ibid. Self-Directed Services is a service-delivery model that is available under the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration's (DDA) Medicaid home and community-based waiver program. Self-Directed Services gives participants a greater degree of choice in how waiver services are delivered, when, where, and the rate of payment. See ["Self-Directed Service Model,"](#) Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration.

⁷ Ibid, pgs. (2)-(3).

⁸ Memo from IDD Commission to County Executive and County Council, [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 28-26,](#) pgs. (4)-(6).

⁹ Bill 3-22, Legislative Branch – Climate Assessments – Required, Montgomery County Council, Effective date October 24, 2022

Economic Impact Statement

Montgomery County, Maryland

Bill 28-26, Health and Sanitation – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission – Membership; appointment; terms – Amendments

Summary

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that Bill 28-26 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County, as measured by the Council's priority economic indicators.

Background and Purpose of Bill 28-26

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development describes intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) as “differences that are usually present at birth and that uniquely affect the trajectory of the individual’s physical, intellectual, and/or emotional development.” IDD can affect multiple body parts or systems, such as the nervous system, sensory system, and metabolism. Examples of IDD include cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and autism spectrum disorders (ASD).¹

The IDD Commission is a County-sponsored group that focuses on supporting community members with IDD. The 25-member commission includes members of the IDD community, service providers and advocacy organizations that support community members with IDD, and agency representatives.² The Commission is responsible for:³

- Promoting direct communication among families, organizations, and the general public on programs and services for community members with IDD;
- Conducting educational programs to promote the welfare of community members with IDD; and
- Advising the County on matters involving the needs of community members with IDD, among other duties.

The IDD Commission holds regular meetings that are open to the public.⁴

The purpose of Bill 28-26 is to expand the representation of members of the IDD community on the IDD Commission. Currently, 11 of the Commission’s 19 voting members represent community members with IDD

¹ [“About Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \(IDDs\),”](#) National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health.

² [“Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission,”](#) Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.

³ [Bill 10-23: Health – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission – Established,](#) Montgomery County Council, Effective July 10, 2023.

⁴ Events, [“Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission.”](#)

(2 seats) and family members, guardians, or support staff of community members with IDD (9 seats). If enacted, Bill 28-26 would expand this group from 11 to 15 members and designate the seats follows:⁵

- Five are community members with IDD;
- Five are parents, immediate relatives, or guardians of community members with IDD; and
- Five are community members with IDD or parents, immediate relatives, or guardians of community members with IDD.

Additionally, at least three of these fifteen members must represent community members who participate in Self-Directed Services.⁶

Of note, seven voting members of the commission would continue to represent service providers or advocacy organizations that support community members with IDD, and one would continue to be a member of the Commission on People with Disabilities. The commission would also continue to include six non-voting members that represent various departments and agencies.⁷

The IDD Commission requested the changes in Bill 28-26. According to the commission, they aim “to update the Commission’s membership to align with best practices in disability governance and ensure equitable, meaningful representation of people with [IDD] and their families.”⁸

The Council introduced Bill 28-26 on June 16, 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 Bill 28-26 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.⁹

By expanding the representation of members of the IDD community on the IDD Commission, the Bill would have no direct effect on residents, private organizations, or overall economic conditions, as measured by the Council’s priority economic indicators.

⁵ [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 28-26](#), Montgomery County Council, Introduced June 16, 2026, pgs. 2 and (2)-(3).

⁶ Ibid. Self-Directed Services is a service-delivery model that is available under the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration’s (DDA) Medicaid home and community-based waiver program. Self-Directed Services gives participants a greater degree of choice in how waiver services are delivered, when, where, and the rate of payment. See [“Self-Directed Service Model,”](#) Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration.

⁷ Ibid, pgs. (2)-(3).

⁸ Memo from IDD Commission to County Executive and County Council, [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 28-26](#), pgs. (4)-(6).

⁹ Montgomery County Code, [“Sec. 2-81B, Economic Impact Statements.”](#)

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.

Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

BILL 28-26: HEALTH AND SANITATION - INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMISSION - MEMBERSHIP; APPOINTMENT; TERMS - AMENDMENTS

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 28-26 would have a positive impact on racial equity and social justice (RESJ) in the County. Expanding the representation of community members who are directly impacted by intellectual and development disabilities (IDD) on the IDD Commission would advance social justice by improving the Commission's effectiveness to address social inequities experienced by community members with IDD. However, given the lack of focus on racial equity in the Commission's composition and scope, it is unclear whether Bill 28-26 would help address racial inequities and disparities experienced by Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) community members with IDD.

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 BILL 28-26

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development describes IDD as "differences that are usually present at birth and that uniquely affect the trajectory of the individual's physical, intellectual, and/or emotional development." IDD can affect multiple body parts or systems, such as the nervous system, sensory system, and metabolism. Examples of IDD include cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and autism spectrum disorders (ASD).³

The IDD Commission is a County-sponsored group that focuses on supporting community members with IDD. The 25-member commission includes members of the IDD community, service providers and advocacy organizations that support community members with IDD, and agency representatives.⁴ The Commission is responsible for:⁵

- Promoting direct communication among families, organizations, and the public on programs and services for community members with IDD;
- Conducting educational programs to promote the welfare of community members with IDD; and
- Advising the County on matters involving the needs of community members with IDD, among other duties.

The IDD Commission holds regular meetings that are open to the public.⁶

The purpose of Bill 28-26 is to expand the representation of members of the IDD community on the IDD Commission. Currently, 11 of the Commission's 19 voting members represent members of the IDD community with two seats

RESJ Impact Statement

Bill 28-26

designated for community members with IDD and nine seats designated for family members, guardians, or support staff of community members with IDD. If enacted, Bill 28-26 would expand this group from 11 to 15 members and designate the seats follows:⁷

- Five would be community members with IDD;
- Five would be parents, immediate relatives, or guardians of community members with IDD; and
- Five would be community members with IDD or parents, immediate relatives, or guardians of community members with IDD.

Additionally, at least three of these fifteen members must represent community members who participate in Self-Directed Services.⁸

Of note, seven voting members of the commission would continue to represent service providers or advocacy organizations that support community members with IDD, and one would continue to be a member of the Commission on People with Disabilities. The Commission would also continue to include six non-voting members that represent various departments and agencies.⁹

The IDD Commission requested the changes in Bill 28-26. According to the Commission, they aim “to update the Commission’s membership to align with best practices in disability governance and ensure equitable, meaningful representation of people with [IDD] and their families.”¹⁰

The Council introduced Bill 28-26 on June 16, 2026.

This RESJIS builds on the one for Bill 10-23, Health - Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission – Established, which OLO published in March 2023. Please refer to this RESJIS for racial equity context on IDD.¹¹

ANTICIPATED RESJ IMPACTS

To consider the anticipated impact of Bill 28-26 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?

Members of the IDD community – including community members with IDD and parents, immediate relatives, and guardians of community members with IDD – would benefit from having more representation on the IDD Commission.

There is a lack of data on the population of children and adults with IDD in the County by race and ethnicity. As a proxy, OLO looked at demographic data on County adults served through the Maryland Development Disabilities Administration’s (DDA) Community Services Program (Table A, Appendix).¹² This data shows, in FY22, White, and to a lesser extent, Black community members were overrepresented among DDA program participants. Asian and Latinx community members were underrepresented, while Native American and Pacific Islander community members were proportionately represented. Notably, Black community members were also overrepresented among people on the program’s waitlist.

As noted by the IDD Commission in their request for Bill 28-26, “Nothing About Us, Without Us” is a core principle of the Disability Rights Movement.¹³ Engagement with communities most impacted by racial inequities is also a key strategy to

RESJ Impact Statement

Bill 28-26

advance racial equity in government.¹⁴ The Bill would help strengthen the voice of community members who are directly impacted by IDD on the IDD Commission. This would help improve the Commission's effectiveness in addressing social inequities experienced by community members with IDD. However, given the lack of focus on racial equity in the commission's composition and scope, it is unclear whether Bill 28-26 would help address racial inequities and disparities experienced by BIPOC community members with IDD.

Taken together, OLO anticipates Bill 28-26 would have a positive impact on RESJ 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.¹⁵ OLO anticipates Bill 28-26 would have a positive impact on RESJ in the County. As such, OLO does not offer recommended amendments. However, should the Council seek to improve the RESJ impact of this Bill, OLO offers two options for Council consideration:

- **Require IDD Commission voting members to reflect racial and economic diversity of the County.** To help improve the IDD Commission's effectiveness in addressing racial inequities and disparities experienced by BIPOC community members with IDD, the Council could consider requiring voting members of the IDD Commission to reflect the racial and economic diversity of the County. This would help ensure BIPOC community members directly impacted by IDD have a representative voice on the Commission to raise and address racial equity concerns.
- **Consider policies to improve RESJ impact of IDD Commission and other boards, committees, and commissions (BCCs).** As noted in the RESJIS for Bill 8-23, requiring RESJ training and actions plans for each BCC, including the IDD Commission, would help reinforce the County's efforts to advance RESJ.¹⁶ The Council could also consider recommendations from the 2024 contractor review of BCCs, including strengthening data collection and reporting on BCC member demographics, engaging in targeted outreach and recruitment of community members who are underrepresented in BCCs, and addressing barriers to participation in BCCs, among others.¹⁷

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.

RESJ Impact Statement

Bill 28-26

APPENDIX

Table A: People Served through DDA Community Services Program by Race and Ethnicity, Montgomery County, Fiscal Year 2022

Race or ethnicity ¹⁸	Traditional & Self-Directed Groups	Waiting List	County Adult Population
Asian	9.8	12.7	16.3
Black	23.4	30.6	18.4
Native American	0.1	0.2	0.6
Pacific Islander	0.0	0.3	0.0
White	58.1	46.9	44.3
Latinx	2.3	10.2	19.0

Source: [Report on Demographic Data of Individuals Served through DDA Community Services Program](#), Maryland Department of Health, pgs. 15 & 25, and [Table S2101](#), 2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Census Bureau.

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

² Ibid.

³ [“About Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \(IDDs\),”](#) National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health.

⁴ [“Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission,”](#) Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.

⁵ [Bill 10-23: Health – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission – Established](#), Montgomery County Council, Effective July 10, 2023.

⁶ Events, [“Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission.”](#)

⁷ [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 28-26](#), Montgomery County Council, Introduced June 16, 2026, pgs. 2 and (2)-(3).

⁸ Ibid. Self-Directed Services is a service-delivery model that is available under the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration’s (DDA) Medicaid home and community-based waiver program. Self-Directed Services gives participants a greater degree of choice in how waiver services are delivered, when, where, and the rate of payment. See [“Self-Directed Service Model,”](#) Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration.

⁹ Ibid, pgs. (2)-(3).

¹⁰ Memo from IDD Commission to County Executive and County Council, [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 28-26](#), pgs. (4)-(6).

¹¹ [RESJIS for Bill 10-23](#), Office of Legislative Oversight, March 10, 2023.

¹² The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is the main Maryland state agency that pays for services in communities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. [“About DDA,”](#) Maryland Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Administration.

¹³ Memo from IDD Commission to County Executive and County Council, [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 28-26](#), pg. (4); G. Albrecht, [“Nothing about us without us,”](#) Encyclopedia of Disability, SAGE Reference, 2006.

¹⁴ [“The GARE Approach: Visualize, Normalize, Organize Operationalize,”](#) Government Alliance on Race & Equity; J. Peña & C. Kalyandurg, [OLO Report 2024-8: Community Engagement for Racial Equity and Social Justice](#), Office of Legislative Oversight, March 12, 2024.

¹⁵ [Bill 27-19, Administration – Human Rights – Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice – Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee – Established](#), Montgomery County Council.

¹⁶ [RESJIS for Bill 8-23](#), Office of Legislative Oversight, March 9, 2023, pg. 2.

¹⁷ Arcstratta, OLO Report 2024-7, [“Contractor Report on Composition of Montgomery County Boards, Commissions, and Committees,”](#) Office of Legislative Oversight, February 22, 2024, pgs. vi-viii.

¹⁸ For data in Table A, race is inclusive of Latinx origin.