



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

AGENDA ITEM #10
September 15, 2026
Public Hearing

SUBJECT

Bill 34-26, Health and Sanitation – Bodywork Establishments – Amendments

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Luedtke

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

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Members of the public

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Receive public testimony

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Bill 34-26 would:

- (1) prohibit the issuance of a bodyworks establishment license when the establishment has as a corporate officer or business manager an individual who has been convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or served any term of probation as a result of being charged with certain crimes or who previously served as a corporate officer or business manager of a bodyworks establishment the license of which was revoked;
- (2) define certain terms related to bodyworks establishment;
- (3) require bodyworks establishments to identify all individuals serving as a corporate officer or business manager of the establishment; and
- (4) generally amend the law regarding bodywork establishments.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

N/A

This report contains:

Staff Report	Pages 1–2
Bill 34-26	© 1
Lead Sponsor’s Letter to Colleagues	© 4
Climate Assessment	© 6
Fiscal Impact Statement	© 8

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 34-26, Health and Sanitation – Bodywork Establishments – Amendments

PURPOSE: To receive testimony – no Council vote expected

Bill 34-26, Health and Sanitation – Bodywork Establishments – Amendments, was introduced on July 21, 2026. Its Lead Sponsor is Councilmember Luedtke. Its Co-Sponsors are Council President Fani-González, Councilmembers Stewart, Katz, Friedson, Evans, and Mink, Council Vice President Balcombe, and Councilmembers Jawando and Sayles. A public hearing is scheduled for September 15, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. A worksession of the Joint Public Safety and Health and Human Services (PS/HHS) Committee is tentatively scheduled for October 29, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

Bill 34-26 would:

- (1) prohibit the issuance of a bodyworks establishment license when the establishment has as a corporate officer or business manager an individual who has been convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or served any term of probation as a result of being charged with certain crimes or who previously served as a corporate officer or business manager of a bodyworks establishment the license of which was revoked;
- (2) define certain terms related to bodyworks establishment;
- (3) require bodyworks establishments to identify all individuals serving as a corporate officer or business manager of the establishment; and
- (4) generally amend the law regarding bodywork establishments.

Background

In 2015, the Council first regulated bodywork establishments, including the issuance of licenses by the Department of Health and Human Services and enforcement by the Police Department. That regulatory scheme was implemented because bodywork establishments had emerged as a front for human trafficking. Under current law, however, an individual associated with a bodywork establishment that violates State or County law faces little impediment to opening a new bodywork establishment within the County.

Bill Specifics

Bill 34-26 seeks to prevent individuals who were affiliated in certain ways with a bodywork establishment that was the target of enforcement efforts under existing County law from opening and operating a different bodywork establishment elsewhere in the County. The bill defines the term corporate officer or business manager, which is the level of ownership or employment within a bodywork establishment necessary to trigger certain reporting requirements under the law. It requires bodywork establishment licensees to provide a list of all individuals meeting that definition within the corporate entity. The bill also prohibits the issuance of a license to an establishment where a corporate officer or business manager is currently pending adjudication or has been found to have violated certain state laws or where the corporate officer or business manager was a corporate officer or business manager of a bodywork establishment that had its license revoked by the County.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT STATEMENTS*

Climate Assessment. “The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 34-26 will have no impact on the County’s contribution to addressing climate change as it is proposing regulations to prevent human trafficking in bodywork establishments operating in the County.”

Fiscal Impact. “Bill 34-26 creates no additional expenditures in FY27, including \$0 in one-time costs and \$0 in ongoing costs. Annual expenditures total \$0 each year thereafter. The department will require no new positions (0.0 FTE) to implement this bill. The bill is expected to generate no additional revenue in the first year, and each year thereafter.”

<u>This packet contains:</u>	<u>Circle #</u>
Bill 34-26	1
Lead Sponsor’s Letter to Colleagues	4
Climate Assessment	6
Fiscal Impact Statement	8

*The Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statement and Economic Impact Statement were not available at the time of publication of this staff report. They can be found at the following 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/Office-of-Legislative-Oversight/Pages/Racial-Equity-and-Social-Justice-Economic-and-Climate-Impact-Statements.aspx).

Bill No. 34-26
Concerning: Health and Sanitation –
Bodywork Establishments –
Amendments
Revised: 9/8/2026 Draft No. 2
Introduced: July 21, 2026
Expiration: December 7, 2026
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: _____
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Luedtke

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

AN ACT to:

- (1) prohibit the issuance of a bodyworks establishment license when the establishment has as a corporate officer or business manager an individual who has been convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or served any term of probation as a result of being charged with certain crimes or who previously served as a corporate officer or business manager of a bodyworks establishment the license of which was revoked;
- (2) define certain terms related to bodyworks establishment;
- (3) require bodyworks establishments to identify all individuals serving as a corporate officer or business manager of the establishment; and
- (4) generally amend the law regarding bodywork establishments.

By amending

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 24, Health and Sanitation
Section 24-8B

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. Section 24-8B is amended as follows:

Sec. 24-8B. Bodywork Establishments.

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this Section, the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

* * *

Corporate officer or business manager means any individual holding a senior level position within a bodywork establishment by virtue of an equity ownership stake, corporate structure leadership, or operational management such that the individual has or can reasonably be expected to have control or knowledge of the establishment's operations. Corporate officer or business manager includes any owner, shareholder, member, partner, director, or general manager, regardless of official or formal title within the organization.

* * *

(c) Bodywork establishment.

* * *

(10) The Director must not issue a bodywork establishment license to any establishment that has a corporate officer or business manager:

(A) who previously served as a corporate officer or business manager of a bodywork establishment if the license of the establishment was revoked under this Section; or

(B) who is currently pending adjudication, has been found by a relevant adjudicatory body to have been in violation of, has been convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, had a charge disposed of under Maryland Rule 4-248, or served any term of

probation as a result of being charged with a crime under Title 3, Subtitles 3, 11, and 12, or Title 11, Subtitle 3 of the Criminal Law Article or a violation of § 6-401(e) or § 6-501(b) of the Health Occupations Article of the Maryland Code, as amended.

(d) *Bodywork establishment licensee.*

(1) The licensee, if an individual, or an owner's representative designated under subsection (c)(1), must

* * *

(E) provide a passport-size photograph, fingerprints, and a list of the individual's occupation or employment for the 3 years before filing the application; [and]

(F) if the applicant is not a United States citizen, provide evidence of legal presence and employability in the United States[.]; and

(G) submit at the time of application and supplement, as necessary to maintain accuracy, a comprehensive list of the names of all individuals serving as a corporate officer or business manager of the establishment.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 7

MEMORANDUM

July 13, 2026

From: Councilmember Dawn Luedtke 
To: All Councilmembers
Subject: Introduction of Bill XX-26, *Health and Sanitation - Bodyworks Amendments*

Dear Colleagues,

Human trafficking is a pervasive crime that often operates behind the façade of legitimate businesses, including illicit massage and bodyworks establishments. Over the last several years, Montgomery County has strengthened oversight of these businesses through regional collaboration and proactive enforcement. A troubling gap remains in which individuals associated with bodyworks establishments that have engaged in human trafficking or related criminal activity are still able to open new establishments under different business entities or LLCs, allowing the cycle of exploitation to continue.

On July 21, I will introduce Bill XX-26, *Health and Sanitation - Bodyworks Amendments* to close that loophole. The bill requires applicants for bodyworks establishment licenses to disclose all individuals serving as corporate officers or business managers to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). It also prohibits HHS from issuing a bodyworks establishment license to an applicant whose corporate officers or business managers have previously been convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or otherwise been found responsible for specified human trafficking- and prostitution-related offenses, or previously managed or owned a bodyworks establishment whose license was revoked. We developed this proposal in consultation with the Montgomery County Police Department and subject matter experts serving on the Human Trafficking Prevention Commission. HHS's Licensure and Regulatory Services has confirmed its ability to administer these requirements.

By ensuring individuals with a history of exploiting bodyworks practitioners and establishments cannot simply reorganize under a new business entity and obtain another license, this legislation protects consumers and legitimate businesses. *Health and Sanitation - Bodyworks Amendments* also underscores our County's commitment to combatting trafficking in all of its insidious forms. Thank you for your attention and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like to support as a co-sponsor.

Cc: Jim Ogorzalek, Legislative Attorney

Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

BILL 34-26: HEALTH AND SANITATION – BODYWORK ESTABLISHMENTS - AMENDMENTS

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 34-26 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as it is proposing regulations to prevent human trafficking in bodywork establishments operating in the County.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 34-26

Bodywork establishments are those that provide services such as massages, reflexology, and acupressure.¹ Currently, the County requires establishments who provide bodywork services to be permitted by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). According to the introduction staff report for Bill 34-26, these regulations were put in place in 2015 as bodywork establishments had emerged as a front for human trafficking.²

Bill 34-26 seeks to create more regulations to prevent human trafficking in bodywork establishments through the following:

- Prohibiting the issuance of a license if a corporate officer or business manager of the bodyworks establishment has been convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or served any term of probation as a result of being charged with specific human-trafficking and prostitution-related crimes;
- Prohibiting the issuance of a license if a corporate officer or business manager previously worked at a bodyworks establishment whose license was revoked; and
- Requiring bodywork establishments to identify all individuals serving as a corporate officer or business manager of the establishment.³

Bill 34-26 was introduced by the County Council on July 21, 2026.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the Bill is proposing regulations to prevent human trafficking in bodywork establishments operating in the County, OLO anticipates Bill 34-26 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.⁴ OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Bill 34-26 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 Montgomery County DHHS, [Bodywork License](#), Accessed 7/27/2026.

² Montgomery County Council, [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 34-26](#), Introduced July 21, 2026.

³ [Ibid.](#)

⁴ Bill 3-22, Legislative Branch – Climate Assessments – Required, Montgomery County Council, Effective date October 24, 2022

Fiscal Impact Statement

Office of Management and Budget

Bill 34-26

Health and Sanitation - Bodywork Establishments - Amendments

Bill Summary

This bill amends the law requiring bodyworks establishments to identify individuals serving as an owner or manager of a bodyworks establishment and prohibits the issuance of a license when the establishment has an owner, corporate officer, or business manager who has been convicted, pled guilty, or served probation for certain crimes or was the owner/manager of a bodyworks establishment in which the license was revoked.

Fiscal Impact Summary

Bill 34-26 creates no additional expenditures in FY27, including \$0 in one-time costs and \$0 in ongoing costs. Annual expenditures total \$0 each year thereafter. The department will require no new positions (0.0 FTE) to implement this bill. The bill is expected to generate no additional revenue in the first year, and each year thereafter.

Fiscal Year	27	28	29	30	31	32	Total
Personnel Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Impact	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Fiscal Impact Analysis

There is no estimated fiscal impact associated with Bill 34-26.

Staff Impact

While the bill will create some additional reviews of incoming applications, the Department of Health and Human Services, Licensure and Regulatory Services group will be able to absorb this work with existing staff. Enforcement is assumed to be the same as presently applied. In FY26, there were 52 licensed bodyworks businesses.

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.

Ranges of revenue or expenditures that are uncertain or difficult to project

It is uncertain to predict if there will be a loss in revenue due to businesses unable to be licensed or how many businesses this bill will affect. However, the current 52 businesses that are licensed provided FY26 licensing revenue of \$4,450.

Sources of information

N/A



