

**MEMORANDUM**

April 19, 2018

TO: County Council

FROM: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney *A. Mihill*

SUBJECT: Expedited Bill 14-18, Economic Development – Strategic Plan to Promote Prosperity and Increase Opportunity

PURPOSE: Public Hearing – no Council votes required

Expedited Bill 14-18, Economic Development – Strategic Plan to Promote Prosperity and Increase Opportunity, sponsored by Lead Sponsor Councilmember Berliner and Co-Sponsor Councilmember Hucker, was introduced on April 24. A Health and Human Services Committee worksession is tentatively scheduled for May 3 at 9:30 a.m.

Bill 14-18 would require the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to develop a Strategic Plan to Promote Prosperity and Increase Opportunity in Montgomery County which must include certain area-specific plans. It would also require DHHS to submit the first area-specific plan by a certain date.

Also scheduled for a public hearing (agenda item 14) is a special appropriation which will provide the funding required for DHHS to develop the Strategic Plan.

This packet contains:	<u>Circle #</u>
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Expedited Bill No. 14 -18  
Concerning: Economic Development –  
Strategic Plan to Promote Prosperity  
and Increase Opportunity  
Revised: 3/22/2018 Draft No. 4  
Introduced: April 3, 2018  
Expires: October 3, 2019  
Enacted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive: \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunset Date: None  
Ch. \_\_\_\_\_, Laws of Mont. Co. \_\_\_\_\_

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Berliner  
Co-Sponsor: Councilmember Hucker

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**AN EXPEDITED ACT** to:

- (1) require the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a Strategic Plan to Promote Prosperity and Increase Opportunity in Montgomery County, which must include certain area-specific plans;
- (2) require the Department of Health and Human Services to submit the first area-specific plan by a certain date; and
- (3) generally amend County laws related to economic development.

By renumbering

Montgomery County Code  
Chapter 30B, Economic Development

By adding

Chapter 15A, Economic Development  
Article III, Strategic Plan to Promote Prosperity and Increase Opportunity  
Section 15A-15

<b>Boldface</b>	<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. Chapter 30B is renumbered and Section 15A-15 is added as**  
2 **follows:**

3                   **Chapter [30B] 15A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

4                           **Article I. Economic Development Corporation.**

5 **[30B-1] 15A-1. Policy objectives.**

6   \*       \*       \*

7 **[30B-2] 15A-2. Designation.**

8   \*       \*       \*

9 **[30B-3] 15A-3. Board of Directors.**

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11 **[30B-4] 15A-4. Status; incorporation; bylaws.**

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13 **[30B-5] 15A-5. Economic development program.**

14    \*       \*       \*

15 **[30B-6] 15A-6. Staff; support from County Government.**

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17 **[30B-7] 15A-7. Report.**

18    \*       \*       \*

19   **Article II. Workforce Development.**

20 **[30B-8] 15A-8. Policy objectives.**

21    \*       \*       \*

22 **[30B-9] 15A-9. Designation.**

23    \*       \*       \*

24 **[30B-10]. 15A-10 Board of Directors.**

25    \*       \*       \*

26 **[30B-11] 15A-11. Status; incorporation; bylaws.**

27    \*       \*       \*

28 **[30B-12] 15A-12. Workforce development program.**

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[30B-13] 15A-13. Staff; support from County Government.

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[30B-14] 15A-14. Report.

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**Article III. Strategic Plan to Promote Prosperity and Increase Opportunity.**

**15A-15. Strategic Plan to Promote Prosperity and Increase Opportunity.**

(a) The Department of Health and Human Services must develop a Strategic Plan to Promote Prosperity and Increase Opportunity in the County. This Plan must include area-specific plans for each area served by the Regional Services Centers. The first area-specific plan, which must be focused on the Eastern Montgomery County area, must be submitted to the County Executive and County Council by November 15, 2018. The Strategic Plan must at least include:

- (1) demographic information on household income and household size presented both county-wide and for areas served by the Regional Service Centers by zip code or other available measurement area;
- (2) employment rates for adults and youth;
- (3) average rents and house prices;
- (4) estimates of rent-burdened households, including households paying more than 30% and 50% of income for housing;
- (5) distribution of households participating in the State’s Child Care Subsidy Program and the Working Parents Assistance Program;
- (6) a review of the 2016 Report on the East County Opportunity Zone, including:

- 55                   (A) revised recommendations to be implemented during Fiscal  
 56                   Years 2020-2022;
- 57                   (B) how the revised recommendations are expected to increase  
 58                   the incomes of low-income households in the East County  
 59                   as measured by household income and the percentage of  
 60                   households with incomes at or above 300% of the federal  
 61                   poverty level; and
- 62                   (C) performance measures for the recommendations and  
 63                   recommendations on how to measure and evaluate impacts  
 64                   on household prosperity;
- 65                   (7) information on innovative programs and strategies that have been  
 66                   shown to increase the income of low-income households in the  
 67                   County and other jurisdictions;
- 68                   (8) recommendations on how to leverage State and Federal funds and  
 69                   investment from private philanthropy; and
- 70                   (9) a structure and timeline for developing a similar Strategic Plan in  
 71                   each of the other regional service center areas.
- 72                   (b) In developing the Strategic Plan, the Department must consult with:
- 73                   (1) individuals who have experienced living with a household  
 74                   income below 300% of the federal poverty level, who live in the  
 75                   region being addressed by the Strategic Plan;
- 76                   (2) the County Department of Transportation;
- 77                   (3) the County Department of Housing and Community Affairs;
- 78                   (4) the County Department of Recreation;
- 79                   (5) the Regional Service Center Directors;
- 80                   (6) the Office of Community Partnerships
- 81                   (7) Montgomery County Public Schools;

- 82 (8) Montgomery College;
- 83 (9) the County Planning Department
- 84 (10) the Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families;
- 85 (11) WorkSource Montgomery;
- 86 (12) Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation; and
- 87 (13) organizations whose mission is to reduce and eliminate poverty
- 88 that serve the region being addressed in the Strategic Plan.

**Chapter 30B. Reserved.**

**Sec. 2. Expedited Effective Date.**

The Council declares that this Act is necessary for the immediate protection of the public interest. This Act takes effect on the date when it becomes law.

*Approved:*

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Hans D. Riemer, President, County Council Date

*Approved:*

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Isiah Leggett, County Executive Date

*This is a correct copy of Council action.*

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Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq., Clerk of the Council Date

## LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Expedited Bill 14-18

*Economic Development – Strategic Plan to Promote Prosperity and Increase Opportunity*

**DESCRIPTION:** Expedited Bill 14-18 would require the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a Strategic Plan to Promote Prosperity and Increase Opportunity in Montgomery County which must include certain area-specific plans. It would also require the Department of Health and Human Services to submit the first area-specific plan by a certain date.

**PROBLEM:** The County does not have a strategic approach to follow to promote greater economic opportunity and prosperity for residents.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** To promote greater economic opportunity and prosperity for County residents.

**COORDINATION:** Department of Health and Human Services

**FISCAL IMPACT:** To be requested.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** To be requested.

**EVALUATION:** To be requested.

**EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE:** To be researched.

**SOURCE OF INFORMATION:** Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney, 240-777-7815

**APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES:** N/A

**PENALTIES:** N/A



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER  
COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 1

CHAIRMAN  
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**MEMORANDUM**

March 30, 2018

TO: Council Colleagues

FROM: Councilmember Roger Berliner  
Councilmember Tom Hucker

RE: Legislation to Create a Strategic Plan to Promote Prosperity and Increase Opportunity

Colleagues, we are writing to ask you to join us in co-sponsoring legislation that we are introducing next week. The goal of the bill is straight forward and one that we are confident all of us have a strong interest in achieving.

Currently, Montgomery County has the fourth lowest poverty rate in the State of Maryland. In a county as wealthy as ours, with one of the highest median household incomes in the entire country, we believe that we must do better. Our goal, at a minimum, should be to have the lowest poverty rate in the state.

We believe that the best way to lift people out of poverty is to not only maintain a strong safety net, but also promote greater ladders of opportunity for economic mobility and prosperity. That is why we worked together in creating the County's new microloan program, which will ensure that all our residents who have an idea and the work ethic to match it have a chance at fulfilling their dream. And that is why all of us have been supportive of the work that our Department of Health and Human Services and non-profit community has been doing with the East County Opportunity Zone.

However, while our county has an array of programming to address poverty, administered by various government departments and non-profit organizations, what we are lacking is a strategic approach for our county to follow as we seek to promote greater economic opportunity and prosperity for all our residents. That means our County needs a plan, a plan we own. While a plan in of itself will not eliminate poverty, we believe that plan should – at a minimum – provide recommendations on how to place more residents facing poverty on a path to greater economic success. This will require data. It will require broad input from community stakeholders and individuals who have firsthand experience with poverty. And it will require a thorough review of innovative approaches – both here in Montgomery County and across the nation – that are producing real results in moving individuals and families towards a path of greater economic self-sufficiency.

That is why we are introducing this legislation, which would mandate the creation of a strategic plan for promoting prosperity and increasing opportunity. It is modeled after the legislation that created a strategic plan to reduce hunger in our county, a plan that was well received and has put us on a positive path to achieving our



goal. It is also the outcome of three meetings with a broad array of community, non-profit, and county leaders that began six months ago focusing on our efforts to date and what we need to do going forward.

To make this plan a reality, we will be requesting that the Council approve a Special Appropriation of \$90,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services so they can contract with an outside organization to develop the plan. We would be grateful for your co-sponsorship on this legislation, which we believe is long overdue and would greatly assist in consolidating the existing efforts in our county to address the critical issue of poverty and economic opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration.

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