



**Committee:** Joint  
**Committee Review:** At a future date  
**Staff:** Christine Wellons, Senior Legislative Attorney  
**Purpose:** To receive testimony – no vote expected  
**Keywords:** #SportsCommission #MCSC

AGENDA ITEM #15  
April 19, 2022  
**Public Hearing**

## SUBJECT

Bill 6-22, Recreation – Montgomery County Sports Commission - Established

Lead Sponsors: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

## EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Members of the Public

## COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- To receive testimony, no vote expected

## DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Council Bill 6-22 would establish a 23-member Montgomery County Sports Commission, staffed by the Department of Recreation, to study sports participation and opportunities in the County, to make recommendations to the County Executive and the County Council, and to recognize outstanding teams and athletes in the County.

## SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- N/A

## This report contains:

Staff Report	Pages 1-2
Bill 6-22	© 1
Legislative Request Report	© 4
Economic Impact Statement	© 5
Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statement	© 7

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**M E M O R A N D U M**

April 14, 2022

TO: County Council

FROM: Christine Wellons, Senior Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Bill 6-22, Recreation – Montgomery County Sports Commission - Established

PURPOSE: Public Hearing – to receive testimony

Bill 6-22, Recreation – Montgomery County Sports Commission - Established, sponsored by Lead Sponsor Council President Alborno, and Co-Sponsors Councilmembers Friedson, Katz, Jawando, Riemer, Hucker, and Navarro, and Council Vice-President Glass, was introduced on March 15, 2022. A public hearing is scheduled for April 19, 2022 at 1:30PM. A Joint Planning, Housing & Economic Development and Health & Human Services Committee worksession is tentatively scheduled for June 16, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

The bill would establish a 23-member Montgomery County Sports Commission, staffed by the Department of Recreation, to study sports participation and opportunities in the County, to make recommendations to the County Executive and the County Council, and to recognize outstanding teams and athletes in the County.

**BACKGROUND**

The Office of the Council President has provided the following background and context for the bill:

Montgomery County has a rich sports tradition and numerous public/private facilities such as the Montgomery County SoccerPlex that provide a significant economic boost to the County and enhance quality of life. Montgomery County is home to Olympic athletes, professional athletes, and numerous State and National Championship teams.

The Office of Legislative Oversight recently conducted an analysis of youth sports participation in Montgomery County. [See OLO Report No. 2020-4, <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2020%20Reports/>

OLORreport2020\_4.pdf; see also OLO Report No. 2022-3, [https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2022\\_reports/OLORreport2022-](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2022_reports/OLORreport2022-)

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<sup>1</sup> SportsCommission; MCSC

3.pdf.] The report confirmed the numerous benefits of sports participation for children and youth in social and emotional development and overall health and wellness. The analysis also found that there is a wide discrepancy in sports participation in the County, mostly related to social and economic factors.

It also confirmed that collectively, sports participation is the largest extracurricular activity participated in by children and youth. When added to adult sports leagues and recreational play, sports is the largest participatory activity in the County.

Despite the significant interest and participation and rich history, there is no entity in the County that serves as an organizing body to help conduct research, advocate for enhanced sports opportunities, as well as identify or address discrepancies found in youth sports opportunities.

#### **BILL SPECIFICS**

Bill 6-22 would create a Montgomery County Sports Commission consisting of 23 members appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. The members would serve for 3-year terms.

The duties of the Commission would include:

- (a) preparing and submitting to the County Executive and the County Council an annual report regarding sports participation in the County, including:
  - (1) factors that affect sports participation in the County; and
  - (2) recommendations to improve the quality, quantity, and variety of sports opportunities and facilities in the County; and
- (b) together with the County Executive and County Council, formally recognizing teams and athletes in the County who win state or national championships, or who represent the United States in international competition.

The Commission would be staffed by the Department of Recreation.

This packet contains:

	<u>Circle #</u>
Bill 6-22	1
Legislative Request Report	4
Economic Impact Statement	5
Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statement	7

Expedited Bill No. 6-22  
Concerning: Recreation – Montgomery  
County Sports Commission -  
Established  
Revised: 3/7/2020 Draft No. 1  
Introduced: March 15, 2022  
Expires: September 15, 2023  
Enacted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive: \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunset Date: None  
Ch. \_\_\_\_\_, Laws of Mont. Co. \_\_\_\_\_

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Lead Sponsor: Council President Alborno

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**AN ACT** to:

- (1) establish a Montgomery County Sports Commission;
- (2) specify the membership and responsibilities of the Commission;
- (3) provide for the staffing of the Commission; and
- (4) generally amend the law regarding recreation and advisory boards.

By adding

Montgomery County Code  
Chapter 41, Recreation and Recreation Facilities  
Sections 41-25, 41-26, 41-27, and 41-28

<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:*

Sec. 1. Article IV, Sections 41-25, 41-26, 41-27, and 41-28 are added, as follows:

**Article IV. Montgomery County Sports Commission**

**41-25. Montgomery County Sports Commission – Established.**

(a) There is a Montgomery County Sports Commission.

(b) For purposes of this Article, Commission means the Montgomery County Sports Commission.

**41-26. Commission – Membership; officers; and meetings.**

(a) The Commission consists of 23 members appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

(b) The membership of the Commission should reflect the diversity of the County, including diversity in race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, geography, and sports represented.

(c) A member:

(1) serves for a term of 3 years; and

(2) must not be appointed to serve for more than 2 consecutive full terms.

(d) The Commission must elect a chair and a vice-chair from among its members.

**41-27. Commission – Responsibilities.**

The Commission must:

(a) prepare and submit to the County Executive and the County Council an annual report regarding sports participation in the County, including:

(1) factors that affect sports participation in the County; and

(2) recommendations to improve the quality, quantity, and variety of sports opportunities and facilities in the County; and

(b) together with the County Executive and County Council, formally recognize teams and athletes in the County who win state or national championships, or who represent the United States in international competition.

**41-28. Commission – Staffing.**

The Department of Recreation must provide staffing to the Commission.

**Section 2. Staggered Terms.** The terms of the initial members of the Commission must be staggered. Of the initial 23 members, 7 must be appointed to serve 1-year terms, 7 must be appointed to serve 2-year terms, and 8 must be appointed to serve 3-year terms.

## LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Bill 6-22

*Recreation – Montgomery County Sports Commission - Established*

<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	Establish a 23-member Montgomery County Sports Commission.
<b>PROBLEM:</b>	The need to expand opportunities in sports throughout the County.
<b>GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:</b>	Increase participation and diversity in sports.
<b>COORDINATION:</b>	Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO)
<b>FISCAL IMPACT:</b>	To be provided
<b>ECONOMIC IMPACT:</b>	Office of Legislative Oversight
<b>RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPACT:</b>	Office of Legislative Oversight
<b>EVALUATION:</b>	To be done.
<b>EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE:</b>	To be determined.
<b>SOURCE OF INFORMATION:</b>	Christine Wellons, Senior Legislative Attorney
<b>APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES:</b>	N/A
<b>PENALTIES:</b>	N/A

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# Economic Impact Statement

## Office of Legislative Oversight

### Bill 6-22

### Recreation – Montgomery County Sports Commission – Established

#### SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that enacting Bill 6-22 would have no direct impacts on economic conditions in the County in terms of the Council's priority indicators.

#### BACKGROUND

##### *Bill Description*

The goal of Bill 6-22 is to increase participation and diversity in County sports.<sup>1</sup> The Bill would attempt to achieve this goal by establishing a Montgomery County Sports Commission (hereinafter "Commission") consisting of 23 members appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.<sup>2</sup> As stated in the Bill, the Commission's duties would be to:

- (a) prepare and submit to the County Executive and the County Council an annual report regarding sports participation in the County .... and
- (b) together with the County Executive and County Council, formally recognize teams and athletes in the County who win state or national championships, or who represent the United States in international competition.<sup>3</sup>

#### INFORMATION SOURCES, METHODOLOGIES, AND ASSUMPTIONS

Per Section 2-81B of the Montgomery County Code, the purpose of this Economic Impact Statement is to assess Bill 6-22's impacts on County-based private organizations and residents in terms of the Council's priority economic indicators.<sup>4</sup> OLO concludes that establishing the Commission would have no significant, direct impacts on local economic conditions. However, OLO notes that the Commission could have indirect economic impacts by proposing recommendations that public/private sports organizations or facilities implement in the future. Identifying and estimating these potential indirect impacts is beyond the scope of this analysis.

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<sup>1</sup> Legislative Request Report, Bill 6-22.

<sup>2</sup> Bill 6-22.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Montgomery County Code, Sec. 2-81B.



# Economic Impact Statement

## Office of Legislative Oversight

### VARIABLES

Not applicable

### IMPACTS

WORKFORCE ▪ TAXATION POLICY ▪ PROPERTY VALUES ▪ INCOMES ▪ OPERATING COSTS ▪ PRIVATE SECTOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT ▪  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ▪ COMPETITIVENESS

### Businesses, Non-Profits, Other Private Organizations

Not applicable

### Residents

Not applicable

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

Not applicable

### WORKS CITED

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

Montgomery County Council. [Bill 6-22, Recreation – Montgomery County Sports Commission – Established](#). Introduced on March 15, 2022.

### CAVEATS

Two caveats to the economic analysis performed 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 (OLO) prepared this report.

# Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

## BILL 6-22: RECREATION — MONTGOMERY COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION — ESTABLISHED

### SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that Bill 6-22 could narrow racial and social inequities in sports participation across the County. As such, OLO anticipates a favorable impact of Bill 6-22 on RESJ.

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### PURPOSE OF RESJ IMPACT STATEMENTS

The purpose of racial equity and social justice (RESJ) impact statements is to evaluate the anticipated impact of legislation on racial equity and social justice in the County. Racial equity and social justice refer to a **process** that focuses on centering the needs, power, and leadership of communities of color and low-income communities with a **goal** of eliminating racial and social inequities.<sup>1</sup> Achieving racial equity and social justice usually requires seeing, thinking, and working differently to address the racial and social harms that have caused racial and social inequities.<sup>2</sup>

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### PURPOSE OF BILL 6-22

The purpose of Bill 6-22 is to increase participation and diversity in sports across the County by forming a Montgomery County Sports Commission.<sup>3</sup> The 23-member Commission would have two primary functions: to serve as an organizational body that would conduct and advocate for enhanced sports opportunities that include addressing disparities in youth sports participation; and with the County Executive and County Council recognize local teams and athletes who win state or local national championships or compete internationally.<sup>4</sup> The Commission would be staffed by the Department of Recreation and would be required to submit a report to the Executive and the Council on sports participation in the County annually.<sup>5</sup> Bill 6-22 was introduced to the Council on March 15, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

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### RACIAL AND GENDER INEQUITIES IN SPORTS

Physical activity and participation in sports confers several benefits to children and youth. Studies have shown the health benefits of physical activity and playing sports among youth to include:

- Lowered risk of developing cancer;<sup>7</sup>
- Reduced risk of experiencing anxiety and depression;<sup>8</sup>
- Increased physical activity into adulthood; and<sup>9</sup>
- Improved self-esteem and social outcomes, including a reduced likelihood of engaging in risky behaviors.<sup>10</sup>

Research also demonstrates a positive association between sport participation and academic outcomes that include:

- Higher standardized test scores and grade point averages;<sup>11</sup>
- Higher educational aspirations and college attendance; and<sup>12</sup>
- Higher levels of educational attainment.<sup>13</sup>

# RESJ Impact Statement

## Bill 6-22

Yet sizable disparities in sports participation by race, ethnicity, gender, and income exist. For example, according to 2014 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) results for Montgomery County, among middle schoolers:<sup>14</sup>

- Black, Latinx, and other race students were twice as likely as White peers to have not played on a sports team over the past 12 months (38.0 – 42.9 percent vs. 20.9 percent);
- Black, Latinx, and other race boys were two to three times as likely as White peers to have not played on a sports team over the past 12 months (26.5 – 42.2 percent vs. 16.2 percent); and
- Black, Latinx, and other race girls were nearly twice as likely as White peers to have not played on a sports team over the past 12 months (44.0 – 50.3 percent vs. 25.6 percent).

2014 YRBS results regarding physical activity trends among high schoolers evidenced similar disparities where:<sup>15</sup>

- Black, Latinx, and other race students were nearly twice as likely as White and multiple race peers to have not been physically active for at least 60 minutes over the past week (20.6 – 21.6 percent vs. 11.2 – 12.4 percent);
- Black, Latinx, and other race boys were nearly twice as likely as White peers to have not been physically active for at least 60 minutes over the past week (16.2 to 17.3 percent vs. 8.7 percent); and
- Black, Latinx, and other race girls were nearly twice as likely as White and multiple race peers to have not been physically active for at least 60 minutes over the past week (24.7 – 26.6 percent vs. 13.6 percent).

Finally, 2014 YRBS results on participation in any extracurricular activities, including sports, among high schoolers evidenced disparities by race, ethnicity, and gender like disparities in physical activity where:<sup>16</sup>

- Black and Latinx students were less likely than White, other race, and multiple race peers to participate in at least one extracurricular activity (54.3 – 69.3 percent vs. 76.5 – 81.0 percent);
- Black and Latinx male students were less likely than White and other race peers to participate in at least one extracurricular activity (52.6 – 70.5 percent vs. 73.1 – 79.6 percent); and
- Black and Latinx female students were less likely than White, other race, and multiple race peers to participate in at least one extracurricular activity (55.8 – 68.3 percent vs. 80.1 – 87.3 percent).

The reasons for these disparities are multi-faceted, rooted in legacies of discrimination and income inequality. Drivers of disparities in sports participation noted in OLO's recent Gender Equity in Local Sports Programs Report, include:<sup>17</sup>

- Gender norms, stereotypes, and gender-based discrimination;
- Race-based discrimination;
- Lack of public and institutional support;
- Lack of female role models;
- Time constraints;
- Incidents of sexual harassment and assaults; and
- Walkability of neighborhoods and accessibility of sporting opportunities.

The high cost of participating in organized sports was also cited in both the OLO Gender Equity Report and the 2020 Youth Sports in Montgomery County Report as a driver of racial and social inequities in local sports participation.<sup>18</sup> Of note, the increasing cost of participating in sports offered by private organizations coupled with policies that privileged these organizations in reserving public use facilities were raised as common concerns among stakeholders seeking to increase participation of under-represented groups in County youth sports.<sup>19</sup>

# RESJ Impact Statement

## Bill 6-22

### ANTICIPATED RESJ IMPACTS

OLO anticipates a favorable impact of Bill 6-22 on racial equity and social justice as a stated goal of the Montgomery County Sports Commission is to diminish inequities in sports participation by gender, race, ethnicity, and income.

With a commitment to advocating for increased access to sports opportunities for under-deserved populations in the County, OLO anticipates the Commission will encourage the Executive and Council to make investments that disproportionately serve residents and families with the greatest economic needs. Such investments should in turn disproportionately benefit Black and Latinx children and communities of color in the County. Given the gender gap in sport participation that especially impacts Black and Latinx girls, OLO anticipates the Commission will recommend County investments that both target girls overall and especially target girls of color with expanded opportunities to participate in sports and physical activities that are accessible in neighborhoods and communities where they reside.

Should the Commission's recommendations result in increased sports opportunities for Black, Latinx and other race youth, and girls in particular, Bill 6-22 can ultimately advance RESJ in sports participation in the County.

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### RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

The County's Racial Equity and Social Justice Act requires OLO to consider whether recommended amendments to bills aimed at narrowing racial and social inequities are warranted in developing RESJ impact statements.<sup>20</sup> OLO finds that Bill 6-22 is likely to advance racial equity and social justice. As such, this RESJ statement does not offer recommendations.

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### CAVEATS

Two caveats to this racial equity and social justice impact statement should be noted. First, predicting the impact of legislation on racial equity and social justice is a challenging, analytical endeavor due to data limitations, uncertainty, and other factors. Second, this RESJ impact statement is intended to inform the legislative process rather than 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.

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### CONTRIBUTIONS

Elaine Bonner-Tompkins, OLO Senior Legislative Analyst, drafted this RESJ impact statement.

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<sup>1</sup> Definition of racial equity and social justice adopted from "Applying a Racial Equity Lens into Federal Nutrition Programs" by M. Gamblin, et.al. Bread for the World, and from Racial Equity Tools <https://www.racialequitytools.org/glossary>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Legislative Request Report, Bill 6-22

<sup>4</sup> Montgomery County Council, Bill 6-22, Recreation – Montgomery County Sports Commission – Established, Introduced March 15, 2022

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Moore S.C., et. Al, Leisure-time physical activity and risk of 26 cancer types in 1.44 million adults. JAMA Internal Medicine, May 16, 2016 cited by Natalia Carrizosa, Gender Equity in Local Sports Programs, OLO Report 2022-3, February 8, 2022

<sup>8</sup> Zhu, X., Haegele, J., Healy, S., "Movement and mental health: Behavioral correlates of anxiety and depression among children of 6-17 years old in the U.S." Mental Health and Physical Activity, 16 (2019) cited by N. Carrizosa, 2022

# RESJ Impact Statement

## Bill 6-22

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<sup>9</sup> Perkins, D.F., Jacobs, J.E., Barber, B.L., Eccles, J.S., “Childhood and Adolescent Sports Participation as Predictors of Participation in Sports and Physical Fitness Activities During Young Adulthood,” Youth and Society 35, No. 4 (2004) cited by N. Carrizosa, 2022

<sup>10</sup> Marsh, H.W., “The Effects of Participation in Sport During the Last Two Years of High School.” Sociology of Sport Journal 10 (1993); Marsh, H.W. and Kleitman, “School Athletic Participation: Mostly Gain with Little Pain.” Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology, 25 (2003)

<sup>11</sup> Hanks, M.P. and Eckland, B.K. “Athletics and Social Participation in the Educational Attainment Process.” Sociology of Education 49 (4) (1976); Otto, L.B., and Alwin, D.F., “Athletics, Aspirations, and Attainments.” Sociology of Education, 50 (2) (1977)

<sup>12</sup> Marsh, H.W. and Kleitman

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results, Maryland Middle School Survey, Montgomery County, Data Tables – Weighted Data, 2014

<sup>15</sup> Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results, Maryland High School Survey, Montgomery County, Data Tables – Weighted Data, 2014

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

<sup>17</sup> N. Carrizosa, 2022

<sup>18</sup> N. Carrizosa, 2022; N. Carrizosa, Youth Sports in Montgomery County, OLO Report 2020-4, March 10, 2020

<sup>19</sup> N. Carrizosa, 2020

<sup>20</sup> Montgomery County Council, Bill 27-19, Administration – Human Rights - Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice – Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee - Established