



Legislation Text

File #: 19-0442, Version: 0

Introductory*

**City of Baltimore
Council Bill ____**

Introduced by: President Scott

A Bill Entitled

An Ordinance concerning

Legislation - Equity Assessment and Fiscal Note Requirement

For the purpose of requiring that certain legislation be accompanied by an equity assessment and fiscal note prior to being voted on by a legislative committee; establishing that the Office of Council Services prepare the required equity assessment and fiscal notes; defining certain terms; providing for the time for submission of the equity assessment and fiscal note; providing for the content of a fiscal note; and providing for a special effective date.

BY adding

Article 1 - Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies

Section(s) 1-3.1

Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, That the Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

Baltimore City Code

Article 1. Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies

Subtitle 1. City Council

§ 1-3.1. Equity assessment and fiscal note requirement.

(a) *Definitions.*

(1) *In general.*

In this section, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

(2) *Bill.*

“Bill” means any:

- (i) proposed ordinance; or
- (ii) proposed resolution of the Mayor and City Council.

(3) *Equity.*

“Equity” has the meaning stated in § 39-1(c) {“Definitions: Equity”} of this article.

(4) *Equity assessment.*

“Equity assessment” has the meaning stated in § 39-1(d) {“Definitions: Equity assessment”} of this article.

(b) *Bill requirements.*

(1) *In general.*

Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a legislative committee may not vote on a bill unless accompanied by:

- (i) a comprehensive equity assessment evaluating the bill’s impacts on equity, if any; and
- (ii) a fiscal note setting forth the contents specified by subsection (e) of this section.

(2) *Other equity assessments.*

The equity assessment required by this section is in addition to any agency equity assessments required by § 39-9 {“Agency implementation - Bill Reports”} of this article.

(3) *Fiscal note exception.*

A fiscal note is not required for any proposed ordinance or proposed resolution of the Mayor and City Council that includes an appropriation for a specific amount, including:

- (i) the ordinance of estimates; or

(ii) any supplementary appropriation authorized under the City Charter.

(c) *Preparation.*

The equity assessment and fiscal note required by this section must be prepared by the Office of Council Services.

(d) *Time for submission.*

(1) *In general.*

The equity assessment and fiscal note required by this section must be submitted no later than 48 hours before the scheduled committee hearing on the bill.

(2) *Late submissions.*

(1) If the Office of Council Services is unable to submit the equity assessment and fiscal note within the time required by this section, the Director of the Office of Council Services must notify the City Council President in writing of the delay, the reason for the delay, and a revised delivery date.

(2) If the City Council President finds the revised delivery date unreasonable, the City Council President may set an alternate date.

(e) *Fiscal note contents.*

Each fiscal note must include:

- (1) the sources of information, assumptions, and methodologies used;
- (2) an estimate of changes in City revenues and expenditures regardless of whether the revenues or expenditures are assumed in a recommended or approved budget;
- (3) revenue and expenditure estimates covering at least the next 4 fiscal years;
- (4) an actuarial analysis through the entire amortization period for each bill that would affect retiree pension or group insurance costs;
- (5) later actions that may affect future revenue and expenditures if the bill authorizes future spending;
- (6) an estimate of the staff time needed to implement the bill;
- (7) an explanation of how the addition of new staff responsibilities would affect other duties;
- (8) an estimate of costs when an additional appropriation is needed;
- (9) a description of any variable that could affect revenue and cost estimates;
- (10) ranges of revenue or expenditures that are uncertain or difficult to project; and
- (11) if a bill is likely to have no fiscal impact, why that is the case.

(f) *Revision.*

As soon as possible after the adoption of an amendment that would significantly alter the equity assessment or fiscal impact of a bill, the Office of Council Services must:

- (1) prepare a revised equity assessment or revised fiscal note for the bill; and
- (2) submit the revised document to:
 - (i) the chair of the committee to which the bill was referred; and
 - (ii) the primary sponsor of the bill.

(g) *Effect of section.*

(1) A bill may be introduced without an equity assessment or fiscal note accompanying the bill.

(2) The validity of an enactment is not affected by the presence, absence, or content of an equity assessment or a fiscal note.

Section 2. And be it further ordained, That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior Ordinance.

Section 3. And be it further ordained, That this Ordinance takes effect on July 1, 2020.