

**Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis - Updated**

Council Bill No. 11-2020

Introduced: March 2, 2020

Auditor: Michael Martin

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this legislation cannot be definitively estimated at this time.

According to the Department of Public Works (DPW), the actual cost to incorporate bird-safe window glossing would be 1 percent or less of the total project.

Further, DPW stated the cost of meeting bird-friendly standards depends on a variety of factors relating to the planning and construction of buildings such as:

- Cost of high-grade glass and materials required;
- Specific building design requirements; and
- Limited number of manufacturers who provide such protective features.

The Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits (DILP) would be required to verify that building permit applications meet the bird-friendly standards. Based on direct input received from DILP, this could be incorporated into their existing inspection process with no additional staff. Therefore, they do not anticipate a fiscal impact in adopting the proposed legislation.

Purpose:

The legislation requires bird-friendly design standards for buildings that are mandated to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating.

Building permit applications would be required to show that the building meets LEED Pilot Credit #55: Reducing Bird Collisions or an equivalent standard.

Other Comments:

This legislation applies only to new construction applications. It is not applicable to existing buildings as defined in the County Code *Sec. 3.1002*. “.... *New construction does not include the renovation of an existing structure that does not change the gross floor area of the existing structure.*”

For comparison, DPW has indicated the cost of retrofitting existing buildings would be approximately \$25 per square foot.