

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

**Council Bill No. 42-2021**

Introduced: May 3, 2021

Auditor: Michael A. Martin

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Fiscal Impact:

Per the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), there will be no fiscal impact to the County as a result of this legislation.

According to the DPZ, all of the work required by this legislation will be fulfilled using existing County resources and will not require any additional or new funding. The DPZ also indicated it will take approximately two weeks for staff to analyze the data and prepare the report required by this legislation.

Purpose:

This legislation would require the DPZ to establish a data collection system to issue recommendations that will improve the retention of existing forest areas and the effectiveness of mitigation efforts.

Other Comments:

The DPZ stated it will use its existing Forest Conservation Act (FCA) data collection system to setup and manage the information required under this bill. Applicants will use this system to verify their project's compliance with the FCA requirements, which includes data related to forest retention and mitigation efforts. Applicants' information is then entered into the DPZ's internal database by DPZ staff.

The DPZ will coordinate with the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Office of Community Sustainability to develop the report, determine which information needs to be included in the analysis, and – when applicable – issue recommendations that will optimize forest retention and mitigation efforts.