

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Bill No. 9-2024

Introduced: February 5, 2024

Auditor: Rebecca Gold

Fiscal Impact:

We anticipate minimal costs to the County resulting from this legislation. The Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) estimates costs of approximately \$1,000 in additional Fiscal Year 2025 funding to support outreach efforts to relevant Howard County motor vehicle fueling facilities.

The OCP expects that enforcement of this legislation will be complaint-based, and that investigations and compliance efforts will be handled by current staff. The OCP also stated that, while unsure of the exact cost, opting for an inspection-based enforcement practice would require up to 20 hours of temporary staffing per week.

The OCP also stated it could attempt to recover costs of enforcement from non-complying parties in accordance with County Code Section 17.411.

Purpose:

Council Bill 9-2024 proposes to add signage requirements for motor vehicle fueling facilities to the County Code. The requirements would obligate a motor vehicle fueling facility to post the highest price on its fuel pricing signs in addition to its lowest price.

Other Comments:

Montgomery County passed similar legislation in April 2023 with Bill 7-23. This law went into effect in October 2023.