ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE BUDGET

BILL NUMBER: 70-25

INTRO. DATE: July 21, 2025

FISCAL NOTE

BILL: AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING: EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS – REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION

This bill reinforces Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which applies to public accommodations by prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities by any business that provides services to the public.

- It includes a requirement for any structural changes or purchase of special equipment to be treated as reasonable accommodations under the ADA.
- Adopts the definition of 'reasonable accommodation' from Maryland State Government Article §20-305, aligning state, local, and federal language.
- Provides a stronger local basis for enforcement, allowing residents to seek remedies through local channels in addition to federal protections.
- Supports the ADA's goal of full and equal enjoyment of goods, services, and facilities for individuals with disabilities.

FISCAL IMPACT

There would be potential costs to the County for enforcement if the bill results in an increase in the number of complaints filed. Actual costs will depend on the volume, which is unknown. The County's ADA Office currently provides technical assistance for these types of complaints, but does have the option to refer cases to the State and Federal agencies responsible for enforcement.

Local businesses may experience a fiscal impact in terms of renovations or the purchase of special equipment, however quantification is difficult given the unknown scope and volume. Businesses can claim an undue burden or financial hardship to deny an accommodation request.

Chris Trumbauer Budget Officer 7/28/2025

Date

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