AN ACT requiring a fiscal analysis for each Bill; specifying that the County Auditor must submit the statement; setting a deadline; specifying the contents of the analysis; providing for public availability; and generally relating to the enactment of legislation.
Section 1. Be it enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard County Code is hereby amended as follows:

By adding:

Title 5 - County Council.
Subtitle 4. Miscellaneous.
Sec. 5.400. Fiscal analyses.

HOWARD COUNTY CODE
Title 5 - County Council.
Subtitle 4. Miscellaneous.
Sec. 5.400. Fiscal analyses.

(A) Scope of section.

This section applies to each bill, supplemental appropriation ordinance, transfer of appropriation ordinance, an act with a fiscal impact on county finances, and a resolution with a fiscal impact on county finances.

(A)(B) “Fiscal analysis”.

For purposes of this section, a fiscal analysis shall include:

(1) A summary of a bill, bill or other legislation;

(2) An evaluation of the fiscal impact that a bill, bill or other legislation would have on county government operations, revenues, and spending; and

(3) An explanation of how the bill, bill, or other legislation will be implemented.

(B)(C) In general.

(1) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the county auditor must submit a fiscal analysis to the county council of each bill, bill or other legislation under consideration by the council.

(ii) This subsection does not apply to the annual budget and appropriation ordinance of Howard County.

(2) A separate fiscal analysis is required for each bill, bill or other legislation.
(C) (D) Time for Submission.

(1) A fiscal analysis must be submitted to the County Council not later than 2 business days on or before 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the public hearing for the legislation, or the day the Council Chairperson sets to accommodate a holiday or other change in the normal schedule.

(2) If the County Auditor cannot submit the fiscal analysis within the time required by paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Auditor must notify the Council Chairperson in writing of the delay, the reason for the delay, and the revised delivery date. If the Council Chairperson finds that the revised delivery date is unreasonable, the Chairperson may set a different delivery deadline.

(E) (F) Content of Fiscal Analysis.

Each fiscal analysis must include the sources of information, assumptions, and methodologies used, a description of the variables that could affect fiscal estimates, and, if legislation is likely to have no fiscal impact, the reason for that conclusion.

(F) (G) Publication.

(1) At least 1 business day before the public hearing for the legislation, the County Council shall make each fiscal analysis freely available to the public.

(2) The County Council shall archive fiscal analyses in a way that allows easy access to the public.

(H) (I) Compliance.

Council action on legislation that is otherwise valid is not invalid because of any failure to follow the requirements of this Section.

Section 2. Be it further enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.
This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on March 5, 2020.

Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on _________________, 2020.

Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on _________________, 2020.

Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on _________________, 2020.

Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on _________________, 2020.

Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on _________________, 2020.

Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council