

Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chair, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: SEP 14 2007

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Adoption and Safe Families Amendment Act of 2007"

REFERENCE: Draft Legislation – No Bill Number Available

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 through FY 2011 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. Costs associated with the proposed bill will be minor and can be absorbed with existing agency resources.

Background

The proposed legislation is intended to bring the District into compliance with the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act,¹ signed into law on July 27, 2006 by the President. The District has until January 1, 2008 to pass local authorizing legislation for this federal law. Among other things, the new federal law: 1) amends the Title IV-E background check requirements; 2) makes information in the National Crime Information Databases (NCID) available to government agencies when investigating child abuse or neglect; 3) requires the Attorney General to conduct fingerprint-based checks of the NCID for child welfare agencies for certain purposes; and 4) requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a national registry of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect.

¹ P.L. 109-248

The proposed legislation would amend the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977² to exclude certain criminal convictions from those that may disqualify an individual from receiving a license, approval, or permit, and to allow such license, approval, or permission to be granted based on current circumstances only where adoption assistance payments or foster care maintenance payments are not to be made on behalf of the child.

The proposed legislation would also amend D.C. Official Code § 16-308 to permit the court to dispense with an investigation, report, and interlocutory decree, but not a criminal records check, under specified circumstances.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 through FY 2011 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. Costs associated with the proposed bill will be minor and can be absorbed with existing agency resources.

² Effective September 23, 1977. D.C. Law 2-22; D.C. Official Code § 4-1305.06