

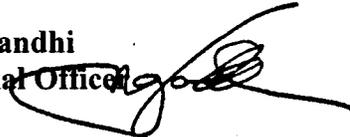
**Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: December 16, 2008

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Firearms Registration Amendment Act of 2008"

REFERENCE: Bill Number 17-843, Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute¹

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend multiple sections of D.C. Official Code to implement a firearms registration system in the District of Columbia and to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *District of Columbia vs. Heller*, which held that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual's right to possess a firearm for use in self-defense within the registrant's home. The proposed legislation (B17-843) would make permanent some provisions of two emergency acts (D.C. Act 17-422 and Act 17-502) and add provisions to establish a permanent firearms registration system in the District.

Specifically, the primary provisions of the proposed legislation would:

- Define "assault weapons" and revise other definitions to clarify the scope of weapons subject to the provisions of the proposed registration law (D.C. Code § 7-2501.01);

¹ ANS dated December 15, 2008. ANS received in ORA December 15, 2008.

- Allow a District resident to register a firearm for use in self-defense within the registrant's home but prohibit a District resident from registering an "unsafe firearm," an assault weapon, or a .50 BMG rifle (D.C. Official Code § 7-2502.02);
- Allow temporary possession of a firearm by a person not in his/her own home if that person is in another person's home and needs to use the firearm for immediate self-defense (D.C. Code § 7-2502.01);
- Increase from 5 to 10 years the period for which prohibited classes of persons may not register a firearm (D.C. Code § 7-2502.03);
- Add to prohibited classes persons convicted of an "intrafamily offense" and persons diagnosed with a mental disorder in the 5 years immediately preceding a registration application (D.C. Code § 7-2502.03);
- Add as a disqualifier to registration a person who has been subject to a civil protection order (D.C. Code § 7-2502.03);
- Require all registrants to complete a firearms training and safety course that includes at least one hour of firing training and four hours of classroom instruction (D.C. Code § 7-2502.03);
- Require the Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department (Chief) to conduct a ballistics identification procedure on all registered firearms and to establish a reasonable fee for this procedure (D.C. Official Code § 7-2502.03);
- Limit registration to no more than one firearm per registrant during any 30 day period (D.C. Official Code § 7-2502.03);
- Authorize the Chief of the MPD to offer a 50% discount on registration fees for any registrant showing proof of completing a course in firearms safety and proficiency (D.C. Code § 7-2502.05);
- Require re-registration of firearms by issuing registrations that expire three years after issuance (D.C. Code § 7-2502.07);
- Require that all semiautomatic pistols sold on or after January 1, 2011 in the District are microstamp-ready (manufactured to produce a unique alpha-numeric or geometric code) (D.C. Code § 7-2504.08);
- Prohibit "unsafe firearms" from being brought into or registered in the District on or after January 1, 2009 (D.C. Code § 7-2504);

- Prohibit possession of large-capacity ammunition feeding devices (D.C. Code § 7-2506.01); and
- Revise the firearms storage requirements to conform with the "minor access prevention" laws prevalent in other states (D.C. Code § 7-2507.02).

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. No additional staff or resources will be required to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation.