

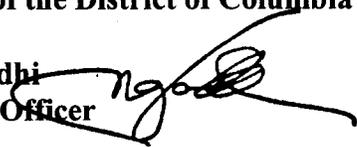
**Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



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: OCT 21 2008

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Emergency Medical Services Act of 2008"

REFERENCE: Bill Number 17-596

Conclusion

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

Background

The intent of the proposed legislation is to implement recommendations made by the City Administrator's Task Force on Emergency Medical Services (also known as the Rosenbaum Task Force).

Specifically, the proposed legislation would:

- Establish a District-wide Emergency Medical Services system;
- Require emergency medical services provider entities, emergency medical response vehicles, emergency medical services personnel, and emergency medical services training facilities and instructors to be licensed or certified by the Mayor;
- Provide for procedures and standards for such licensure or certification;
- Provide for a District-wide trauma and emergency care and data collection system;¹
- Provide for a program of emergency medical services for children;

¹ Under this provision, the Mayor may, but is not required to, establish and maintain a database of information regarding trauma and emergency medical services provided within the District of Columbia.

- Authorize the Mayor to promulgate regulations and to conduct inspections, evaluations, and investigations; and
- Provide penalties for violations.

Financial Plan Impact

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

Implementation of the proposed legislation would require the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS) to pay for licensure and certification requirements of EMS personnel as enumerated in the proposed bill. If all emergency medical services incumbents were to be tested by year-end FY 2010, the cost of the proposed legislation would be approximately \$95,000 in FY 2009 and FY 2010, \$25,000 in FY 2011, and \$26,000 in FY 2012.²

Table FB0-5 of the FY 2009 proposed budget shows a FEMS baseline enhancement of \$433,000 and four FTEs for a policy initiative entitled "Augment EMS training curriculum and staff," of which \$90,000 is intended to be used to support the implementation of this bill. The cost of obtaining certification for all recruits and incumbents allowed by the baseline enhancement would cover the cost of certifying all incumbents by FY 2011, due to the reduced cost of the bill in FY 2011 and FY 2012. Given that obtaining certification for all incumbents by year-end FY 2010 would marginally exceed the FY 2009 appropriation to so do, FEMS would be required to either implement the certification requirements using a phased approach in FY 2009 and FY 2010 or make offsetting budget reductions in other areas in FY 2009 or FY 2010.

Under the proposed legislation, FEMS would be exempt from paying the Department of Health (DOH) certain fees, including exemptions for an agency license fee, license and certification fees for emergency response vehicles, and certification fees for any emergency medical services training facility.

Cost of Proposed Legislation for FEMS¹ (S in thousands)					
	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	4-Year Total
Certification Costs (<i>assuming all incumbents certified by year-end FY 2010</i>)	\$94.5	\$94.2	\$24.7	\$26.2	\$239.6
FEMS Baseline Enhancement²	\$90	\$90	\$90	\$90	\$360

¹ Based upon fees listed at the Code of D.C. Municipal Regulations, Title 29, Chapter 5 and those set by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

² FY 2009 proposed budget, Table FB0-5

* Assumes that FEMS would pay for tests required for certification and re-certification on behalf of new recruits and incumbents.

² Based on assumptions provided to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCO) by FEMS on the projected number of recruits and incumbents who would be required to take the certification test through the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.