

**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:** DEC 15 2008

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement: "Housing Regulation Administration Amendment Act of 2008"

**REFERENCE:** Bill Number 17-979, Committee Print dated November 17, 2008

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**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 D.C. Official Code § 42-3502.03 to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Housing Regulation Administration, the Rental Accommodations Division, and the Rental Conversion and Sale Division within the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

The proposed bill would also amend the qualification requirements for the Rent Administrator:

- The Rent Administrator would have to be admitted to practice before the D.C. Court of Appeals by the time his or her term of office commences; and
- The Rent Administrator would have to possess ". . . skills and experience relevant to rental housing, preferably in the area of rent control or rent stabilization . . ."

The Mayor would be required to nominate a Rent Administrator within 6 months of the effective date of the proposed bill or within 6 months of the occurrence of a vacancy.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. DHCD could implement the provisions of the proposed legislation with existing resources.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> However, the amended qualification requirements for the Rent Administrator *may* place an expenditure pressure on DHCD. The Department has indicated that based on past experience, the pool of individuals that would meet the proposed requirements is small and potentially difficult to locate. This may require the use of a contracted recruitment firm, which DHCD estimates would cost a minimum of \$30,000. Funding for such a measure has not been identified in the DHCD budget.