

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



**Natwar M. Gandhi**  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Kwame R. Brown  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Natwar M. Gandhi  
Chief Financial Officer

**DATE:** April 3, 2012 

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – “Foster Youth Employment Amendment Act of 2012”

**REFERENCE:** Bill Number 19-691 – As Introduced

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2012 budget and the proposed FY 2013 through FY 2016 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

The bill requires<sup>1</sup> the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) to offer employment counseling for foster children ages 18 to 21, provide a letter to these youth verifying their status as foster children or former foster children, and record and track the number of former foster children who request status verification letters from CFSA.

The bill also requires<sup>2</sup> that an applicant for District government employment in the Career Service be given a 10-point hiring preference if the applicant is a District resident who left foster care under CFSA in the past five years, or if the applicant is between the age of 18 and 21 and in the CFSA’s foster care program. Applicants who qualify for the hiring preference authorized by this bill will receive any other preference available to D.C. residents. The bill directs the Mayor to prepare the rules necessary to implement the hiring preferences authorized by the bill.

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<sup>1</sup> The bill amends Section 303 of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective September 23, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-22; D.C. Official Code § 4-1303.03).

<sup>2</sup> By amending section 801 of the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-608.01)

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2012 budget and the proposed FY 2013 through FY 2016 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

CFSA already provides employment counseling for foster youth ages 18 to 21 through federally funded contracts;<sup>3</sup> in partnership with the Department of Employment Services and through the Office of Youth empowerment staff. CFSA also identified a staffer to provide verification letters and to keep track of such letters issued to foster children. Thus, the bill's requirements on CFSA can be absorbed within the Agency's existing resources.

The requirement to give 10-point hiring preference to job applicants who were under CFSA foster care in the past five years, or to foster youth between the ages of 18 to 21 is not expected to impact planned salary expenditures, and therefore does not have a fiscal impact.

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<sup>3</sup> These contracts are funded by the federal Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, which provides funding to assist foster youth, particularly those aging out of the foster care system, in achieving self-sufficiency and independence.