

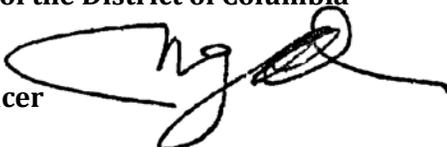
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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: January 10, 2012

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “Civil Marriage Dissolution Equality Amendment Act of 2011”

REFERENCE: Bill 19-526, Draft Committee Print Shared with OCFO on January 2, 2012

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2012 through FY 2015 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill would amend the District’s residency requirements¹ associated with filing for divorce or legal separation to allow for non-resident, same-sex couples to file for divorce in the District, provided their residing jurisdiction would not maintain an action for divorce. The same-sex marriage would have to have been performed in the District.

Family Court Operations Division of the Superior Court of D.C., which has jurisdiction over divorce cases of District residents, would have jurisdiction over the action for non-resident, same-sex divorce created by the bill.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2012 through FY 2015 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill would not impact the District’s budget and financial plan, because the Family Court Operations Division of the Superior Court of D.C. is funded by the Federal government.

¹ D.C. Official Code § 16-902 states one of the parties must be a resident of the District for the six months preceding the divorce or separation action.

The Honorable Kwame R. Brown

FIS: Bill 19-526 "Civil Marriage Dissolution Equality Amendment Act of 2011," Draft Committee Print Shared with OCFO on January 2, 2012

Notwithstanding the Family Court's financial and jurisdictional separation from the District, the Court would not anticipate any significant increases in divorce proceedings or any undue financial pressures on its budget.²

² Based on communication with the Family Court Operations Division on January 5, 2012.