

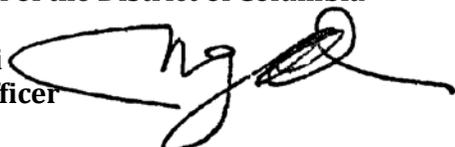
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Philip H. Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi 
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: October 3, 2012

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “Judgment Adjudicating Parentage
Amendment Act of 2012”

REFERENCE: Bill 19-615, Draft Committee Print Shared with the Office of Revenue
Analysis on September 24, 2012

Conclusion

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

Background

The bill creates a legal framework for non-resident parents to request a judgment adjudicating parentage from a District judge. To submit a request, the child must have been born in the District, both parents must have a legal parental relationship with the child,¹ and both parents must consent to the request. The ability to request a judgment applies retroactively to the effective date of the Domestic Partnership Judicial Determination of Parentage Amendment Act of 2009.²

Additionally, the bill gives the Superior Court of the District jurisdiction over adoption proceedings if the child was born in the District.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2013 through FY 2016 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill creates a framework for requests made to DC Courts for parental judgment where one does not currently exist. It is expected that most requests will originate from same-sex couples whose parental relationships are not recognized in neighboring jurisdictions. This increased

¹ As defined in D.C. Official Code § 16-909.

² Effective July 18, 2009 (D.C. Law 18-33; D.C. Official Code § 7-201 *et seq.*).

The Honorable Philip H. Mendelson

FIS: Bill 19-615, "Judgment Adjudicating Parentage Amendment Act of 2012" Draft committee print shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on September 24, 2012

caseload³ will be borne by DC Courts, which is funded by the Federal Government, so there is no impact on the District's budget and financial plan.

³ For illustrative purposes only, one active family law practitioner believes DC Courts could see approximately two dozen cases per year.