


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



Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer 

**DATE:** February 3, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Extreme Weather Protection for Animals  
Emergency Amendment Act of 2017

**REFERENCE:** Draft Emergency Bill as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on  
February 2, 2017

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2020 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

The bill requires<sup>1</sup> dog owners to provide their dogs with protection from the weather anytime the Mayor declares a cold emergency alert. Shelters that protect from the weather must have enough space to protect a dog from injury, rain, sleet, snow, hail, cold, physical suffering, and impairment of health. The shelter must also be raised at least four inches from the ground and must include heat retaining, moisture wicking substances and a covered wind block. The Department of Health (DOH) may issue a fine of up to \$250 for failure to comply with shelter requirements.

**Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2020 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. DOH already enforces shelter and extreme weather protections through a contract with the Humane Rescue Alliance and can issue \$250 fines when a dog owner is in violation of the law. DOH can implement the emergency bill without any additional resources.

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<sup>1</sup> By amending the Acts of the Legislative Assembly, approved August 23, 1871 (Leg. Assem, p. 135, ch. 106, § 1; D.C. Official Code § 22-1001).