


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: December 3, 2018

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Community Health Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018

REFERENCE: Bill 22-558, Committee print circulated on November 27, 2018

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 through fiscal year 2022 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The first title of the bill requires¹ Health Care Facilities operating in the District to report to the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) annual levels of uncompensated care, including charity care, bad debt, and community benefits offered free of charge. Additionally, the bill clarifies the types of assistance that SHPDA may offer when supporting the orderly transition of the patient load after the notice of intent to close a health care facility.

The second title of the bill allows² the Department of Health (DOH) to issue provisional licenses to health care facilities to continue to operate for three years if a notice of closure is denied by SHPDA.

The third title of the bill establishes a comprehensive newborn screening and testing program and creates discharge standards for parents of newborn babies. Hospitals, birthing facilities, and nurse-midwives facilitating a home birth must inform and educate parents on the purpose and availability of newborn screenings for critical congenital heart disease, hearing impairment, and metabolic disorders. Each must also screen all newborns for hearing impairment, critical congenital heart

¹ By amending The Health Services Planning Program Re-establishment Act of 1996, effective April 9, 1997 (D.C. Law 11-191; D.C. Official Code § 44-401 et seq.).

² Pursuant to section 7(c) of the Health Services Planning Program Re-establishment Act of 1996, effective April 9, 1997 (D.C. Law 11-191; D.C. Official Code § 44-406(c)).

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FIS: "Community Health Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018," Bill 22-558, Committee print circulated on November 27, 2018.

disease, and metabolic disorders, unless the newborn's parent withholds consent for the screening procedure. Providers must also notify DOH of the number of infants screened and the results of screenings.

The bill also requires that hospitals, birthing facilities, and nurse-midwives provide comprehensive newborn education to each parent of a newborn baby that they discharge. The post-partum education must include information on breastfeeding, family planning, safe sleep practices, tobacco exposure, vaccinations, car safety, basic newborn care, and the results of the newborn screening.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 through fiscal year 2022 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The Department of Health can implement the requirements in the bill without additional resources.