

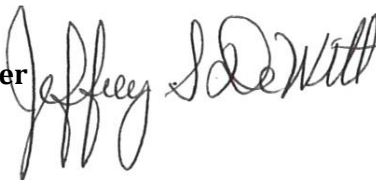
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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: March 12, 2018

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Hearing Aid Assistance Program Act of 2018

REFERENCE: Bill 22-354, Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue
Analysis on March 1, 2018

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2018 through fiscal year 2021 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill will cost \$500,000 in fiscal year 2019 and \$1.5 million over the four-year financial plan.

Background

The bill establishes a Hearing Aid Assistance Program (HAAP) administered by the Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with the Department of Disability Services, that provides District domiciled residents with an annual household adjusted gross income of no more than \$100,000 with a reimbursement of up to \$500 to offset the purchase of a hearing aid. The bill requires that \$500,000 in reoccurring local funds be set aside to finance the program each year, and limits reimbursements to the availability of funds in the program.

The bill also requires DOH to issue an annual report on the performance of the HAAP beginning January 1, 2020. If demand exceeds available funding, the report may include legislative recommendations to DOH and the Council of the District of Columbia to adjust HAAP eligibility criteria to give priority to applications for eligible children who are less than 14 years old, eligible seniors who are at least 65 years old, and eligible residents with a disability.¹ DOH may also recommend legislative language to create a hearing aid refurbishing program through which hearing aids that are no longer used are collected and refurbished for the use of other individuals.

¹ As defined in Section 12102 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, approved July 26, 1990 (104 Stat. 328; 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Hearing Aid Assistance Program Act of 2018," Bill 22-354, Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on March 1, 2018.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2018 through fiscal year 2021 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill will cost \$500,000 in fiscal year 2019 and \$1.5 million over the four-year financial plan. DOH requires \$500,000 annually for the program, which may be used as needed for both hearing aid reimbursements and implementation costs.

Bill 22-354 - Hearing Aid Assistance Program Act of 2018					
Total Fiscal Impact					
	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	Total
Total Fiscal Impact	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,500,000