


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: October 15, 2018

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Foster Parent Training Regulation
Amendment Act of 2018

REFERENCE: Bill 22-97, Draft Committee Print sent to the Office of Revenue Analysis
on September 28, 2018

Conclusion

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

Background

The bill changes¹ the training requirements for foster parents.

The pre-service training foster parents receive from the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) will be expanded to include the following topics:

- Developmental requirements of children with disabilities;
- Cultural competency to enhance awareness of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community; and
- Needs of foster children who are at heightened risk of aging out of foster care without being adopted.

Foster parents will also be required to attend a specialized training if a foster child placed in their home is:

- LGBTQ;
- A victim of sex trafficking;

¹ By amending Chapter 60 of Title 29 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (29 DCMR § 6000 *et seq.*)

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 22-97, "Foster Parent Training Regulation Amendment Act of 2018," Draft Committee Print sent to the Office of Revenue Analysis on September 28, 2018

- Diagnosed with an intellectual disability, serious emotional disturbance, autism, or certain learning disabilities;
- A parent under 21 years of age;
- A victim of violent behavior or has a history of violent behavior; or
- Fourteen years of age or older.

Within 45 days of identifying the need for a specialized training, CFSA must notify the foster parent to let them know they need to complete the training. The foster parent must complete the training within 90 days of notification.

Financial Plan Impact

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

CFSA estimates it will cost up to \$31,000 a year to implement the bill. CFSA can absorb this cost within its approved budget.

To implement the bill, CFSA will need to update its child welfare information system in order to collect and track new data related to the specialized trainings. Some of its training providers will also need to pay staff overtime to accommodate an increased number of trainings. Potential additional costs include those associated with developing a communication plan and reporting.