


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 24, 2020

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Access to Biosimilars Amendment Act of 2020

REFERENCE: Bill 23-430, Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on February 14, 2020

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill allows¹ pharmacists in the District of Columbia to dispense interchangeable biological products. Biological products are viruses, therapeutic serums, toxins, antitoxins, vaccines, blood, blood component or derivatives, allergenic products, proteins, or arsphenamine or derivative of arsphenamine that are applicable to the prevention, treatment, or cure of a disease. Interchangeable biologics are biologics that can be substituted for one another without any clinically meaningful difference.

The bill also requires pharmacists, or their designee, to electronically notify² prescribers when an interchangeable biological product is dispensed to a patient. The notification must occur within five days after the biologic is dispensed and must include the name and manufacturer of the biological

¹ By amending The District of Columbia Prescription Drug Price Information Act, effective September 10, 1976 (D.C. Law 1-81; D.C. Official Code § 48-801.01 et seq.).

² Using an interoperable electronic medical records system; an electronic prescribing technology; a pharmacy benefits management system; or an electronic pharmacy record system.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

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product. If a pharmacist is unable to notify a prescriber electronically, they may provide notification via, fax, telephone, or other means.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The Department of Health can implement the bill without additional resources. The Board of Pharmacy already enforces rules and regulation with regards to the practice of pharmacy in the District of Columbia, including the dispensing of biologics.