


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



Fitzroy Lee
Interim Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Fitzroy Lee
Interim Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: June 28, 2021

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Certified Midwife Credential Amendment Act of 2021

REFERENCE: Bill 24-143, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on June 23, 2021

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2022 through fiscal year 2025 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill's implementation will cost \$216,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$902,000 over the four-year financial plan.

Background

The bill regulates¹ the scope of practice for certified midwifery² and qualifications for licensure by the Department of Health (DC Health). Certified midwives may provide the following services as part of their scope of practice:

- Prescribe medications, including controlled substances, and contraceptive methods;
- Admit, manage, and discharge patients;
- Order and interpret laboratory and diagnostic tests;
- Order the use of medical devices;

¹ By amending The District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01 et seq.).

² Certified Midwifery is the practice of providing independent primary maternity care and well-women care by a certified midwife to patients over the normal course of childbirth, including prenatal, intrapartum, postpartum, and normal new-born care in accordance with standards established by the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 24-143, "Certified Midwife Credential Amendment Act of 2021," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on June 23, 2021

- Consult and treat in areas such as health promotion, family planning, disease prevention, and individualized wellness education and counseling;
- Provide care at maternity centers; and
- Administer prophylactic solutions to prevent the occurrence of ophthalmia in newborns.

The bill requires³ certified midwives to be licensed by the Board of Nursing. An individual applying for a license to practice certified midwifery must:

- Hold a valid bachelor's degree at an accredited university where nursing or required science pre-requisites are met;
- Hold a valid graduate degree from a program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education;
- Pass the certification exam from the American Midwifery Certification Board;
- Be at least 21 years of age by the date of the licensure application; and
- Complete a criminal history background check.

The bill requires⁴ health benefit plans or health insurance provided through Medicaid to provide coverage for services rendered by a certified midwife. The bill also includes⁵ maternity centers and certified midwives as health providers that are required to comply with malpractice laws.

Lastly, the bill allows⁶ certified midwives to participate in the District's Health Professional Recruitment Program. The program provides payment toward the outstanding principal, interest, and related expense of federal, state, or local government loans and commercial loans obtained by the participant for school tuition and educational expenses.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the proposed fiscal year 2022 through fiscal year 2025 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill's implementation will cost \$216,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$902,000 over the four-year financial plan.

The DC Health Board of Nursing will need to hire a Health Licensing Specialist and Compliance Coordinator in order to process certified midwife license applications and to provide enforcement of regulations.

³ By amending D.C. Official Code § 3-1202.04(b)(1).

⁴ By amending D.C. Official Code § 3-1206.71.

⁵ By amending Section 202(a)(2) of the Medical Malpractice Amendment Act of 2006, effective March 14, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-263; D.C. Official Code § 7-161(a)(2)).

⁶ By amending Section 2(6) of the District of Columbia Health Professional Recruitment Program Act of 2005, effective March 8, 2006 (D.C. Law 16-71; D.C. Official Code § 7-751.01(6)).

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Certified Midwife Credential Amendment Act of 2021					
Total Cost					
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	Total
Salary ^(a)	\$176,986	\$181,305	\$185,735	\$190,282	\$734,308
Fringe ^(b)	\$38,937	\$40,834	\$42,826	\$44,916	\$167,513
Total	\$215,923	\$222,139	\$228,561	\$235,198	\$901,821

Table Notes:

- a. Assumes one Grade-11, Step-5 Health Licensing Specialist and one Grade-12, Step-5 Compliance Coordinator, and 1.75 percent cost growth.
- b. Assume fringe benefit rate of 22 percent and cost growth of 2.375 percent.

No additional resources are needed to require health benefit plans or health insurance provided through Medicaid to provide coverage for services rendered by a certified midwife. Medicaid currently covers maternal health services and covering services provided by certified midwives expands the potential pool of providers to deliver services.

Allowing certified midwives to participate in the Health Professional Recruitment Program does not require any additional resources. This student loan repayment program is already subject to the availability of funding, so expanding the pool of participants does not increase the cost of the program.