

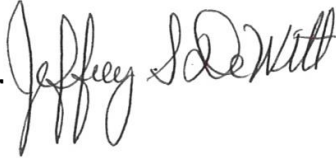
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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 25, 2020

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Improving Voter Registration for New Tenants and Homeowners Amendment Act of 2020

REFERENCE: Bill 23-126, Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on February 24, 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 requires the Board of Elections (BOE) to develop a voter registration packet for new tenants and homeowners in the District. The packet must include a voter registration application, information on how to register online or to update the voter's address, the voting rights of individuals with criminal records, and the registration instructions for high school and college students. This packet should be posted on the BOE website where BOE should also include the date of the next scheduled election, polling locations, and the names of the current elected officials.¹

In addition to the BOE providing the packet on its website, the District must provide it to tenants and homeowners in conjunction with the public housing bill of rights,² the disclosure form published by the District's Rent Administrator,³ and with the application for a homestead deduction

¹ This includes the ability to search for one's Ward Councilmember and Advisor Neighborhood Commissioner.

² District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999, effective May 9, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-105; D.C. Official Code § 6-232).

³ Rental Housing Act of 1985, effective July 17, 1985 (D.C. Law 6-10; D.C. Official Code § 42-3502.22(b)).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 23-126, "Improving Voter Registration for New Tenants and Homeowners Amendment Act of 2020,"
Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on February 24, 2019

with the Office of Tax and Revenue.⁴ Tenants submitting applications for apartments financed by the Housing Finance Agency must also be provided with the BOE information when they receive the required rent increase advisory notice.⁵

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill requires BOE to develop a voter registration packet for new tenants and homeowners and for the District of Columbia Housing Authority, Housing Finance Agency, Rent Administrator, and Office of Tax and Revenue to make the BOE packet available to their customers through existing documents and applications. BOE can develop the packet with its existing budgeted resources.

The other District agencies can provide the relevant BOE documents and links on their websites alongside their agency documents so that they can be accessed by tenants, homeowners, or relevant third parties that provide these documents to tenants and homeowners. These agencies can do this with existing budgeted resources. New tenants and homeowners will register to vote through the BOE website or by submitting an application directly to BOE.

⁴ D.C. Official Code §§ 47-850 and 47-850.01.

⁵ District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency Act, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-135; D.C. Official Code § 42-2703.08(f)).