


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: January 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Maternal Mortality Review Committee
Establishment Act of 2018

REFERENCE: Bill 22-524, Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue
Analysis on January 12, 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's implementation will cost \$88,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$372,000 over the four-year financial plan period.

Background

The bill establishes a Maternal Mortality Review Committee¹ (Committee) within the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). The Committee will conduct comprehensive evaluations of maternal deaths and severe maternal morbidity² of District residents³ and provide recommendations for improving maternal health and safety for women in the District. The bill authorizes the Committee to receive, or issue a subpoena to receive, all provider, health care facility, clinic, lab, medical record department, or District agency records and data related to maternal deaths.⁴ The bill requires the Committee to keep confidential all personal information that

¹ The Committee will include representatives of five District agencies, an obstetrics and gynecology representative from each hospital in the District, a certified nurse or midwife from a birthing center, an obstetric nurse, a representative from the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, three representatives from related community organizations, a social worker, a doula, a representative from a pediatric hospital, and an individual directly impacted by maternal mortality.

² The bill defines severe maternal morbidity as an occurrence of a patient requiring four or more units of blood and/or intensive care unit admission.

³ The Committee will review deaths of District residents regardless of the place of death.

⁴ Law enforcement agencies may withhold information that could impede an ongoing investigation.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 22-524, "Maternal Mortality Review Committee Establishment Act of 2018," Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on January 12, 2017

is not otherwise subject to release under law or court order or is presented during a closed Committee meeting. Any unlawful uses or disclosures of information concerning a deceased woman or other person carries a fine of \$1,000.

The Committee must make public and submit to the Mayor and Council an annual report by July 1st of each year.

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 Committee members are unpaid, but OCME requires an additional program specialist to support the Committee at a cost of \$88,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$372,000 over the four-year financial plan period. The program specialist will collect and analyze any available data to help identify the full scope of the maternal mortality issue and will assist the Committee in its case review and annual reporting requirements. OCME does not have funds available to support this need. The bill dedicates any fine revenues associated with unlawful disclosures of information to the Committee, but no revenues are currently projected.

Maternal Mortality Review Committee Establishment Act of 2018					
Implementation Costs					
Fiscal Year 2018 - Fiscal Year 2021					
	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	Total
Program Specialist	\$88,000	\$91,000	\$95,000	\$98,000	\$372,000