


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: May 8, 2017

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Primary Date Alteration Amendment Act of 2017

REFERENCE: Bill 22-197, Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on May 8, 2017

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2017 budget and the proposed fiscal year 2018 through fiscal year 2021 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill's implementation will cost the District of Columbia Board of Elections (BOE) an additional \$10,000 to \$15,000 per primary election, which the agency can absorb.

Background

The bill changes the primary election dates in the District to the third Tuesday in June for all local and federal elections. Currently, primary elections are held on the second Tuesday in June during presidential election years¹ and on the first Tuesday in September during other years.²

The bill eliminates a restriction that a Board of Elections board member cannot be a federal employee. The bill also alters the definition of who is a government employee for purposes of employee engagement in political activities to exclude the Attorney General.³

¹ This primary applies to the president, presidential electors, House of Representatives, and some Councilmembers.

² This primary applies to the Mayor, Chairman of the Council, Attorney General, and the remaining Councilmember seats.

³ Under current law, the Attorney General would not be considered an employee beginning on January 1, 2018 (Prohibition on Government Employee Engagement in Political Activity Act of 2010, effective March 31, 2011 (D.C. Law 18-335; D.C. Official Code § 1-1171.01(3)(A)(iii))).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 22-197, "Primary Date Alteration Amendment Act of 2017," Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on May 8, 2017

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2017 budget and the proposed fiscal year 2018 through fiscal year 2021 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill moves all primary elections to the third Tuesday in June. BOE costs will increase by \$10,000 to \$15,000 per primary election to cover additional security and custodial costs at District of Columbia Public School locations when school is not in session. BOE can absorb these costs within its existing resources.