


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



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi 
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: December 11, 2013

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “LGBTQ Homeless Youth Reform Amendment Act of 2013”

REFERENCE: Draft Committee Print shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on December 11, 2013

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2014 through FY 2017 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill amends the Homeless Services Reform Amendment Act of 2005¹ (HSRA) to add a definition for “youth” and clarify the definition of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) under the HSRA Act. The bill defines “youth”² as a person who is 24 years of age or younger.

The bill defines LGBTQ as “a person who self-identifies as being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, or questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.”

The bill makes several changes to current law to ensure the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) assesses the needs of the LGBTQ homeless population. Specifically, the bill:

¹ Effective October 22, 2005 (D.C. Law 16-35; D.C. Official Code § 4-751.01 *et seq.*)

² According to the 2013 Point-in-Time Survey available on the Interagency Council on Homelessness website, there are approximately six “unaccompanied minor children” and 604 adult youth defined as homeless. Of the 604 adult youth, 158 are singles and 446 are persons in families. Survey available at: <http://ich.dc.gov/node/494182>

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- Adds the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Affairs to the list of agencies designated to serve on the ICH.³
- Requires the ICH to include existing data on the number of homeless LGBTQ youth in its annual needs assessment of the homeless population. Currently, the law requires ICH to use existing data on the homeless population, and does not specify subpopulations.
- Requires the ICH to address the needs of subpopulations, including LGBTQ youth, in their annual needs assessment. Under current law, ICH is required to produce a needs assessment annually.
- Requires the ICH to evaluate the service needs of the District's LGBTQ homeless youth as compared to homeless youth in the general population. This report must be prepared no later than 5 years from the effective date of this bill.
- Adds services designed to alleviate the high risk of homelessness for LGBTQ youth to the type of services offered under the District's continuum of care for homeless residents. Requires that data on the LGBTQ population is included as part of the Point-in-Time Survey that is conducted annually.

The bill requires workers at the District's central intake centers to provide all individuals seeking homeless services with information regarding the rights and resources available to the LGBTQ population offered through the continuum of care.

The bill sets training standards and requirements for all providers so that workers are trained in cultural competence with regard to the LGBTQ community.

The bill requires a minimum of 10 beds to be available for LGBTQ homeless youth each year.

Finally, the bill gives the Office of GLBT Affairs grant making authority and establishes a LGBTQ Homeless Youth Training Grant Fund, a non-lapsing fund available for training on cultural competency and other best practices for research and data collection regarding LGBTQ homeless youth.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2014 through FY 2017 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

To implement the bill, the Office of GLBT Affairs will need one additional full-time employee to act as the liaison to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the ICH on issues relating to LGBTQ homeless youth. This person would be responsible for ensuring the data collection, training, annual assessment needs, and other requirements pertaining to LGBTQ homeless youth were appropriately designed and implemented.

The FY 2014 approved budget included \$486,000 in recurring funds for DHS to provide homeless services to LGBTQ homeless youth. DHS has agreed to transfer funds from this budget to pay for the staff person required by the Office of GLBT Affairs. The remaining budget will be used to pay for additional beds. Currently, DHS has set aside 8 beds for LGBTQ homeless youth. Under this bill, DHS

³ The ICH was established through the HSRA Act of 2005 to inform and guide the District's policies for serving the District's homeless population. More information on the mission of the ICH is available at: <http://ich.dc.gov/page/about-ich>

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will provide 10 additional beds for LGBTQ youth. DHS currently pays a rate of \$38,272 per bed for the existing LGBTQ homeless youth beds at the Wanda Alston House.⁴

Finally, the bill establishes a LGBTQ Homeless Youth Training Grant Fund ("Fund"). No funds have been dedicated to this Fund to date. Any monies directed to the Fund will need to be included in an approved budget and financial plan. The establishment of this fund has no cost.

The implementation costs and available funding are detailed in the table below. It is important to note that as staffing costs increase in the out years, the available budget for beds is reduced. Therefore, it may be necessary for additional resources to be appropriated to DHS if the Mayor and the Council would like to maintain the current level of beds for LGBTQ youth.

Estimated Fiscal Impact for Bill 20-51, LGBTQ Homeless Youth Reform Amendment Act of 2013					
	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017⁵	4-Year Total
<u>Costs</u>					
Staff costs for Office of GLBT Affairs ¹	-\$46,563	-\$96,852	-\$100,726	-\$104,755	-\$348,897
Cost of 10 beds for LGBTQ Youth. ²	-\$382,720	-\$382,720	-\$382,720	-\$382,720	-\$1,530,880
Total Costs	-\$429,283	-\$479,572	-\$483,446	-\$487,475	-\$1,879,777
<u>Resources</u>					
Total budget for LGBTQ Youth ^{3,4}	\$486,000	\$486,000	\$486,000	\$486,000	\$1,944,000
Remaining budget for LGBTQ Youth ⁵	\$56,717	\$6,428	\$2,554	-\$1,475	\$64,223
Total Fiscal Impact	-	-	-	-	-

¹ The annual salary in FY 2014 for one FTE, including benefits, is approximately \$93,127. This estimate assumes a staff person would be hired for 6 months in FY14.

² DHS currently has 8 beds dedicated for LGBTQ youth at the Wanda Alston House. This bill will require DHS to set aside 10 additional beds. DHS currently pays this provider \$38,272 per bed.

³ The FY14 budget transfers fees to DHS from the authorized \$15 increase in Street Cleaning Parking fines, to be administered by the Department of Public Works. The funds-recurring in nature-was dedicated for the expansion of shelter capacity for homeless youth who identify as LGBTQ and increased funding for Permanent Supportive Housing for seniors age 65 and older. The total reflected in this table is the share dedicated to LGBTQ youth.

⁴ DHS has agreed to transfer the funds to the Office of GLBT Affairs in FY 2014 and the out years. To ensure the Office of GLBT receives funds after FY 2014, DHS will need to issue a MOU with the Office of GLBT agreeing to the transfer.

⁵ There is a *de minimis* cost projected for FY 2017; however, given the fact that there are additional resources in prior years, it is assumed this cost can be absorbed.

⁴ <http://www.wandaalstonfoundation.org/#!wanda-alston-house/c1ust>