

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:** September 18, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement - "Prohibition on Government Employee Engagement in Political Activity Amendment Act of 2013"

**REFERENCE:** Bill 20-117- As Introduced

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**Conclusion**

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

**Background**

In 2012, changes<sup>1</sup> to a federal law known as the Hatch Act, removed District government employees from federal restrictions regarding engagement in political activity. In anticipation of this change, the District established its own law<sup>2</sup> in 2011 (known informally as the "Local Hatch Act") with provisions similar to those in federal law.

This bill makes permanent temporary legislation<sup>3</sup> that made technical changes to the Local Hatch Act, including establishing the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (BEGA) as the enforcement entity for the law. The bill also amends the list of officials that are exempt from political activity prohibitions.

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<sup>1</sup> Hatch Act Modernization Act of 2012, (Pub. Law 112-230).

<sup>2</sup> The Prohibition on Government Employee Engagement in Political Activity Act of 2010, effective March 31, 2011 (D.C. Law 18-335; 58 DCR 599).

<sup>3</sup> Prohibition on Government Employee Engagement in Political Activity Temporary Amendment Act of 2013, effective May 18, 2013 through December 28, 2013 (D.C. Law 20-4; 60 DCR 4624).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 20-117, "Prohibition on Government Employee Engagement in Political Activity Amendment Act of 2013", bill as Introduced.

**Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2014 through FY 2017 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. BEGA is already managing enforcement of the Hatch Act and Local Hatch Act within its current resources and the technical changes have no fiscal impact.