

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



**Jeff DeWitt**  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Jeff DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer 

**DATE:** November 17, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement - "Adoption Fee Amendment Act of 2014"

**REFERENCE:** Bill 20-898, Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue  
Analysis on November 12, 2014

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2015 through FY 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

The bill makes changes laws regarding the adoption process for children under 16 years of age. First, the bill increases, from ten to 14 calendar days, the time that a birth parent has to revoke his or her relinquishment of rights to custody of a child. Second, the bill authorizes a child placement agency to charge an adoptive parent reasonable fees, including legal expenses, the cost of locating an absent birthparent, foster care expenses after the first 60 days, living expenses of the birthmother, transportation costs for medical services, and expenses for adoption counseling. Additionally the agency may charge the adoptive parents the actual costs for the birthmother's legal, hospital and medical expenses, and expenses incurred if the adoption is dissolved.

The bill requires the Department of Health to propose rulemaking regarding these changes within four months of the Act.

**Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2015 through FY 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The changes to allowable adoption fees will affect adoption agencies, as well as birth and adoptive parents, but will not affect the District's budget and financial plan.