

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:** March 27, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Healthy Hearts of Babies Act of 2015

**REFERENCE:** Bill 21-6, Draft Committee Print shared with the Office of Revenue  
Analysis on March 19, 2015

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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 requires hospitals, maternity centers, and midwives to screen babies for life-threatening congenital heart defects shortly after birth. The health providers must report any positive screenings to the Department of Health. Health insurance plans must cover the cost of screenings.

**Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2015 through FY 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill does not have a cost to the Department of Health or the Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking. Additionally, the screening requirement will not increase the District's Medicaid costs.

The cost of the test will likely be borne collectively by health care providers, insurance companies, and patients. While the screening itself is relatively low cost, negative results would require costlier echocardiograms. However, the screening requirement would only shift the timing of these costlier tests babies with congenital heart disease would inevitably have to go through.