

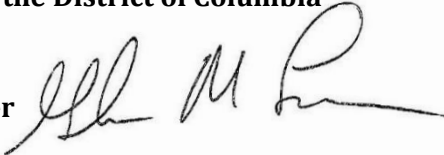
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: March 20, 2024

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Health Occupations Revision General
Amendment Act of 2024

REFERENCE: Bill 25-545, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue
Analysis on March 12, 2024

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2024 through fiscal year 2027 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill makes several updates¹ to how medical professionals practicing in the District of Columbia are licensed and regulated. The bill does the following:

- Establishes uniform standards for the practice of telehealth.
- Updates the scope of practice for several health professions, including optometrists, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, physical therapists, counselors, podiatrists, registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, psychologists, chiropractors, dental hygienists, and dental assistants.
- Establishes the Board of Rehabilitative Therapies that will regulate the practice of audiology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, recreational therapy, and speech-language pathology.
- Establishes a new Board of Integrative Healthcare that will regulate chiropractic care, naturopathic medicine, and acupuncture.

¹ By amending The District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01 et seq.).

- Repeals the required registration process for phlebotomists and clinical laboratory practitioners.
- Allows 16- and 17-year-olds to obtain a temporary registration or certification as nursing assistive personnel.
- Eliminates the Board of Long-Term Care Administration and transfers the regulation of the profession to the Board of Nursing.
- Updates the educational and training requirements for dietitians and nutritionists.
- Defines the practice of medical assistants and medical radiation technologists.
- Allows the Board of Medicine to regulate medical radiation technologists and creates an Advisory Committee on Medical Radiation Technologists to support the Board's work.
- Authorizes the Board of Psychology to regulate the practice of behavior analysis and to create a behavior analysis license.
- Establishes a comprehensive licensing scheme for the full range of the practice of psychology based on national standards.
- Eliminates the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy and transfers the regulation of the profession to the Board of Professional Counseling.
- Creates exceptions for non-clinical practice for individuals with social work degrees who are not licensed.
- Creates an emeritus status for licensure, registration, or certification so that individuals can refer to themselves by the title of their profession after retirement from practice.
- Clarifies the scope of practice and qualifications of advanced practice registered nursing.
- Clarifies the regulation of nursing assistive personnel and provides for the issuance of temporary registration or certification.
- Clarifies the regulation of nursing education and nursing assistive personnel training programs.
- Allows for ear piercing of minors with a sterilized hollow needle and allows for tattoo services for individuals 16 and 17 that have written consent from parents or legal guardians.
- Allows pharmacy technicians to administer vaccines under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist.
- Requires DC Health to create and maintain an online complaint form for the public to submit complaints on any health care professionals registered or licensed by DC Health.
- Removes the requirement that dementia training certificates be notarized.
- Modifies the titles of certain professions to conform with the current practice.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2024 through fiscal year 2027 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

DC Health's Office of Health Professional Boards already licenses and regulates nearly 70,000 health professionals and provides administrative support to the District's health occupation boards. Establishing standards for telehealth, updating the scope of practice for several professions, and consolidating the District's professional licensing boards can be completed using current resources. No additional resources are required to implement the bill.