

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: October 6, 2020

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Minor Consent for Vaccinations Amendment
Act of 2020

REFERENCE: Bill 23-171, Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue
Analysis on October 6, 2020

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill establishes rules¹ to permit a minor, eleven years of age or older, to receive a vaccine, when capable of meeting the informed consent standard. A minor is considered capable if they are able to comprehend the need for medical care and understand that there may be risks with treatment. Minors can only consent to receiving vaccines that are recommended by the United States Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.² The Department of Health (DC Health) must produce age-appropriate vaccine information sheets to be given to minors to support providers in the informed consent process.

Providers who administer vaccinations to minors can seek reimbursement, without parental consent, directly from the insurer, which may be Medicaid, Alliance, or private insurance. Insurers

¹ By amending Chapter 6 of Title 22-B of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (22-B DCMR § 600).

² Immunization schedules recommended by the U.S. ACIP can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/index.html>

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 23-171, "Minor Consent for Vaccinations Amendment Act of 2020" Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 6, 2020

are prohibited from sending an Explanation of Benefits statement to the home of a minor if the minor is vaccinated under without parental consent.

The bill requires³ providers to leave the immunization record blank on the Universal Health Certificate form when a parent is utilizing a religious exemption for vaccinations or is opting their child out of receiving the Human Papillomavirus vaccine. If the immunization record is left blank, providers must submit the Universal Health Certificate directly to a minor's school. Schools must keep this record confidential unless shared with DC Health or the school-based health center.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

DC Health does not require additional resources to produce age-appropriate vaccine information sheets. These forms already exist and are available to providers. The Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) reimburses providers for vaccines given to minors enrolled in the Medicaid and Alliance programs. DHCF reimburses providers for administrative costs while the federal Vaccines for Children program covers the cost of vaccine vials. DHCF can absorb the costs associated with reimbursing providers for vaccines administered to consenting minors.

³ By amending Section (a) of the Student Health Care Act of 1985, effective December 2, 1985 (D.C. Law 6-66; D.C. Official Code § 38-602 et seq.).