

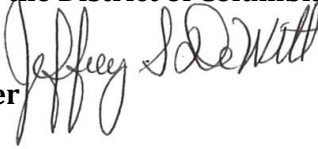
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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 3, 2016

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Driver’s License Fair Access and Equality
Amendment Act of 2016

REFERENCE: Bill 21-738, Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue
Analysis on October 3, 2016

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2020 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

District law¹ requires that some District agencies provide language services, through bilingual staff, translators, or interpreters, to persons they serve who have limited or no-English proficiency. These agencies must also translate vital documents² into non-English languages that are spoken by at least 3 percent or 500 individuals served by the agency. The bill adds the Department of Motor Vehicles’ (DMV) public written materials to the definition of vital documents subject to these language access laws. These materials include applications, study guides, exams, and other materials related to obtaining a license, permit, or identification card.

The bill requires DMV to provide free driver’s education courses to low-income residents if it issues a rule that a course is mandatory prior to obtaining a driver’s license or permit. DMV does not currently require a driver’s education course.

The bill also requires DMV to ensure that the process for obtaining a limited purpose driver’s license or learner’s permit is substantially similar to the process for all other residents. The Council

¹ Language Access Act of 2004, effective June 19, 2004 (D.C. Law 15-167; D.C. Official Code § 2-1931 et seq.).

² D.C. Official Code § 2-1931(7).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 21-738, "Driver's License Fair Access and Equality Amendment Act of 2016," Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 3, 2016

authorized limited purposes licenses, permits, and identification cards in 2014³ so that District residents who did not have a social security number or could not establish legal presence in the United States could obtain these documents.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2020 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The Department of Motor Vehicles does not require a resident to complete a driver's education course prior to receiving a license or learner's permit. However, DMV must provide a course free of charge for low-income residents if it decides to make a course mandatory in the future.⁴ DMV does not have the resources to implement this program and the bill requires the Council to approve the rules DMV issues to implement it.

DMV currently complies with the language access and limited purpose license, permit, and identification card provisions. Implementation of these provisions will not impose additional costs on the agency.

³ Driver's Safety Amendment Act of 2013, effective January 17, 2014 (D.C. Law 20-62).

⁴ For illustrative purposes only, if 2,000 residents who earned less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level applied for a new learner's permit or license each year and were required to take a driver's education course at a cost of \$450, it would cost the District \$900,000 annually.