

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: November 29, 2016

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Healthy Public Buildings Assessment Act of 2016

REFERENCE: Bill 21-881, Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 21, 2016

Conclusion

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

Background

The bill requires the Department of General Services (DGS) to assess all public buildings¹ for a number of environmental conditions to ensure safe and healthy conditions for employees and visitors. The conditions that must be assessed include indoor air quality; outdoor air quality on school grounds; physical comfort;² presence of mold, mildew, pests, and radon; the use of pesticides; hazards created by toxic chemicals, waste, or asbestos; lead in paint and drinking water; and the presence and condition of carbon monoxide detection systems. The bill directs DGS to coordinate with the Department of Energy and Environment and the Department of Health to establish assessment protocols that include the frequency and methods of testing, the thresholds at which remediation is required, and the remediation and public disclosure measures to be utilized when thresholds are reached.

The bill also requires DGS to develop a public communication system by September 30, 2017 to inform the public about conditions in each public building. The public communications must include DGS' compliance with protocols or an explanation as to why the agency is not compliant, an explanation of remediation plans when a threshold is exceeded, and access to detailed assessment

¹ Public buildings are defined as those buildings owned by the District where people congregate or work.

² Physical comfort includes an assessment of ventilation, temperature control, lighting, and acoustics.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 21-881, "Healthy Public Buildings Assessment Act of 2016," Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 21, 2016

results. DGS must also provide a report to Council on its assessment protocols and public communication system by the same date.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2020 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. DGS currently assesses public buildings for each of the bill's required environmental conditions and has protocols associated with those assessments. DGS may need to update some of those protocols, but those costs can be absorbed within the agency's existing resources. DGS will utilize its agency website or the BuildSmartDC³ web portal to publicize assessment results and remediation efforts. DGS can absorb any costs associated with adding this information to its site or the portal.

³ <http://www.buildsmartdc.com/>