

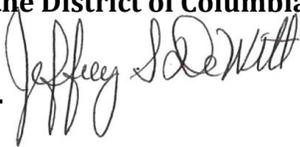
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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: December 2, 2014

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Notice Requirements for Historic Properties
Amendment Act of 2014

REFERENCE: Bill 20-720, Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue
Analysis on December 1, 2014

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2015 through FY 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Implementation of the bill will cost \$39,000 in FY 2015 and \$222,000 over the four-year financial plan period.¹

Background

Currently, any permit request to demolish, alter, subdivide, or construct a property in a historic district in the District must be reviewed by the Mayor and notice published in the DC Register. The bill amends the notice requirement to apply only to cases and conceptual review requests referred to the Historic Preservation Review Board and the Commission of Fine Arts and to codify an existing practice that these cases are posted online.

The bill also requires any property owner applying for a similar permit to provide notice to any abutting and confronting neighbors and any affected Advisory Neighborhood Commissions via certified mail for any permit that will receive a public hearing at the Historic Preservation Review Board or the Commission of Fine Arts. The notice must include notice of the application, information on the schedule of review, and copies of the plan. The plan copies must also be made available on a publicly accessible website or in-person upon request. The Mayor cannot approve a permit until the public has twenty-one days to review the application prior to the hearing.

¹ A proposed amendment to the bill, which may be introduced on December 2, 2014, will make the implementation of the bill subject to its inclusion in an approved budget and financial plan.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 20-720, "Notice Requirements for Historic Properties Amendment Act of 2014," Draft Committee
Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on December 1, 2014

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2015 through FY 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

The Historic Preservation Office (HPO) within the District's Office of Planning will implement the bill's provisions. HPO does post all cases referred to the Historic Preservation Review Board fifteen days prior to the hearing and that will continue. However, HPO does not have the administrative capacity to implement the owner notice requirements. In FY 2014, over 700 cases would have qualified for the notice requirements. HPO will update its procedures and documents to ensure applicants are aware of their responsibilities, assist applicants in identifying the neighbors that need to be noticed, respond to questions and comments from affected parties, mediate notice disputes, and track and certify the notice activities for these projects. Given the lack of capacity at HPO currently and the addition of these new responsibilities, HPO will require a new administrative staff member at a cost of \$39,000 in FY 2015² and \$222,000 over the four-year financial plan period.

² Assumes the employee is hired by February 1, 2015.