

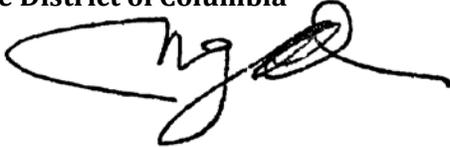
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Philip H. Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: November 20, 2012

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “Sign Regulation Authorization Amendment Act of 2012”

REFERENCE: Bill 19-819– Draft Committee Print Shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 13, 2012

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2013 through FY 2016 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

Current law¹ gives the Council of the District of Columbia the ability to issue rules governing signs in public and private space and requires the Mayor to enforce those rules.

The bill amends current law to consolidate sign governance, transfer rulemaking authority to the Mayor, and eliminate references in the District’s construction codes to sign regulation. Specifically, the bill requires the Mayor to issue regulations² related to signs in public space, on public buildings, other property owned or controlled by the District, and private property within public view, and establishes criteria that should be included in those regulations. Those criteria include the following:

- The types of signs allowed and prohibited and any permit and fee requirements;
- Location, size, and illumination standards;
- Ensure regulations foster a healthy business environment;

¹ An Act To regulate the erection, hanging, placing, painting, display, and maintenance of outdoor signs and other forms of exterior advertising within the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1931 (46 Stat. 1486; D.C. Official Code § 1-303.21 *et seq.*).

² The regulations must be submitted to Council for a 45 day review period.

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- Requirements for large signs;
- Standards for signs on historic sites and historic areas;
- Structural requirements for signs;
- Compliance with federal highway regulations; and
- Provide for the creation of designated entertainment areas.

The bill reaffirms that sign infractions on private space will be enforced under the Civil Infractions Act³ and signs on public space or District owned or controlled properties will be enforced under the Litter Control Act.⁴ The Mayor may also establish a separate fine structure for these violations.

Additionally, the bill makes a number of conforming changes to eliminate references to sign regulations in building codes, refers sign related laws to the regulations that will be established by this bill, and eliminates some sign laws which will be regulated under the authorization of this bill.

Lastly, the bill excludes from the effect of its provisions, any agreements reached by the Department of Transportation (DDOT) to place advertisements on DDOT controlled, District-owned property in public space.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2013 through FY 2016 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill authorizes the Mayor to issue regulations related to signs on private property, public space, and District owned or controlled properties. There are no costs associated with implementing this bill.

³ Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs Civil Infractions Act of 1985, effective October 5, 1985 (D.C. Law 6-42; D.C. Official Code § 2-1801.01 *et seq.*).

⁴ Litter Control Administration Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-100; D.C. Official Code § 8-801 *et seq.*).