

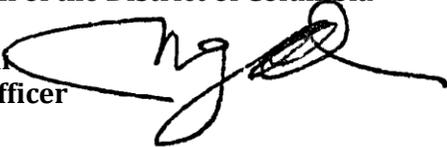
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi 
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: November 26, 2012

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “Service Animals Access Amendment Act of 2012”

REFERENCE: Bill 19-161– Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 26, 2012

Conclusion

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

Background

Current law¹ regarding access to public accommodations with service animals applies to blind persons and persons with physical disabilities. The bill expands applicability of the law to include persons with mental impairments, and provides more detailed definitions of physical and mental disabilities. The definition of a service animal is also expanded to include emotional support animals, and animals assisting persons with a mental disability.

Current law² prohibits denying housing accommodations to a blind or physically disabled person – or having them pay extra - because they have a service animal. The bill expands this prohibition to persons with mental disabilities, and limits the inquiry a housing provider may make about an individual’s disability when confirming the service status of an animal.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2013 through FY 2016 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill expands the official definition of service animal, but the law already requires access to

¹ D.C. Official Code § 7-1001 *et seq.*

² D.C. Official Code § 7-1006.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 19-161, "Service Animals Access Amendment Act of 2012," Draft Committee Print shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 26, 2012

public accommodations by persons with service animals. So, provisions of the bill do not impact the District's budget or financial plan.