


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: June 5, 2013

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “Marriage Officiant Amendment Act of 2013”

REFERENCE: Bill 20-118, Draft Committee Print shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on May 29, 2013

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2013 budget and the proposed FY 2014 through FY 2017 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

Currently, the District of Columbia allows any minister of a religious society, a judge, court clerk or his or her representative, or a representative of a religious society to be authorized to perform a marriage ceremony in the District. These individuals must apply and pay a \$35 fee to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to be authorized to perform the marriage ceremonies.

The bill expands the number of individuals who can perform marriage ceremonies in the District to retired judges, civil celebrants,¹ temporary officiants,² the Mayor, and the parties to the marriage. The Court is authorized to charge a temporary officiant a fee of no more than \$25 in conjunction with his or her application to perform the ceremony and his or her authority will expire upon the filing of the marriage license.

¹ Civil celebrant is defined in the bill as an individual of a secular or non-religious organization who is trained to perform a variety of ceremonies, including marriage.

² A temporary officiant is defined in the bill as an individual authorized to solemnize a specific marriage registered with the Clerk of the Court, who shall receive proof of that authority.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 20-118, "Marriage Officiant Amendment Act of 2013," draft committee print shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on May 29, 2013

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2013 budget and the proposed FY 2014 through FY 2017 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill will create some additional workload to process applications for new classes of officiants and limits the fee that can be charged to a temporary officiant applicant to \$25. All fees generated are dedicated to the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund.

The Courts are funded by the federal government, so there is no impact on the District's budget.