

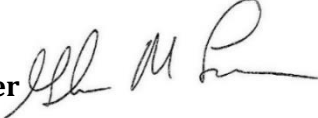
Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



**Glen Lee**  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Glen Lee  
Chief Financial Officer 

**DATE:** December 6, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Office of District Waterways Establishment Act of 2022

**REFERENCE:** Bill 24-617, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 9, 2022

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**Conclusion**

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill's implementation will cost \$606,000 in fiscal year 2023 and \$1.8 million over the four-year financial plan period.

**Background**

The bill establishes a new Office of District Waterways (Office) within the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE). The purpose of the Office is to plan for, promote, advocate for, and facilitate coordination of waterway<sup>1</sup> uses and adjacent property. The Office should work with the District Waterways Advisory Commission (Commission) described below; facilitate communication and cooperation among neighboring states, businesses, community organizations, and the federal government; and advise the Mayor and the Council on issues related to District waterways and the adjacent properties.

The bill also establishes the 24-member Commission with seven voting members appointed by the Mayor, seven voting members appointed by the Council, and ten non-voting members representing District agencies or instrumentalities.<sup>2</sup> The bill establishes the terms, chairpersonship, and expertise that each member should possess. The Commission's main responsibility will be to develop the

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<sup>1</sup> The relevant District waterways are the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and the Washington Channel.

<sup>2</sup> The bill also encourages the Mayor to request Commission representatives from five federal agencies.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 24-617, "Office of District Waterways Establishment Act of 2021," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 9, 2022

biennially updated District Waterways Advisory Plan (Advisory Plan). The Advisory Plan should lay out a strategic vision for District waterways and adjacent properties. The Advisory Plan should cover boating and recreational uses, public and private uses of adjacent properties, facilitating interagency and interjurisdictional cooperation, environmental conservation, economic growth opportunities, safety and security risk assessments, transportation gaps, and opportunities to increase local control of waterways and adjacent properties. The Commission should issue the first Advisory Plan within one year of the bill's effective date.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill's implementation will cost \$606,000 in fiscal year 2023 and \$1.8 million over the four-year financial plan period.

DOEE does significant environmental work around the District's waterways. The new Office will be dedicated to waterway and adjacent land issues and its mission will also include economic development, public safety, transportation, and related issues. DOEE will administratively support the Advisory Commission and the development of the Advisory Plan. DOEE requires one new staffer to lead the office, facilitate development of the Advisory Plan, and support interagency and interjurisdictional coordination; a second staffer to support the Office lead and its activities; and an attorney to update District policies and regulations related to use of the waterways and navigate Federal law and regulations and private interest in the waterways and adjacent properties. These staffers will cost \$331,000 in fiscal year 2023 and \$1.4 million over the four-year financial plan period. Development of the Advisory Plan and biennial updates will cost \$275,000 in fiscal year 2023 and \$475,000 over the four-year financial plan period.

<b>Office of District Waterways Establishment Act of 2022</b>					
<b>Bill 24-617</b>					
<b>Implementation Costs</b>					
<b>Fiscal Year 2023 - Fiscal Year 2026</b>					
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>					
	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>DOEE Staff</b>	\$331	\$338	\$345	\$353	\$1,365
<b>Advisory Plan</b>	\$275	\$50	\$100	\$50	\$475
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$606</b>	<b>\$388</b>	<b>\$445</b>	<b>\$403</b>	<b>\$1,840</b>