

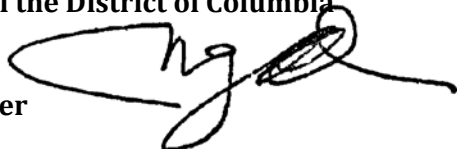
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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 19, 2012

SUBJECT: REVISED Fiscal Impact Statement – “Access to Justice for Bicyclists Act of 2012”

REFERENCE: Bill 19-475– Draft Committee Print Shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 8, 2012

This revised fiscal impact statement reflects changes made by the Committee of the Judiciary and replaces the statement issued by the OCFO on October 4, 2012.

Conclusion

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

Background

The bill entitles a bicyclist, who is the victim of assault or battery by a motorist, or has suffered physical injury or property damage, to be compensated for reasonable attorney’s fees and costs up to \$10,000 and actual damages or \$1,000, whichever is greater, in a civil action. Additionally, the bill allows the criminal conviction of a motorist to be admissible and indisputable in a civil proceeding.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2013 through FY 2016 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. According to Metropolitan Police Department statistics, the District averaged 540 bicycle crashes in 2010 and 2011. The ability to recover costs and receive damages will lower a potential financial barrier for bicyclists to bring civil action against a motorist and will likely result in increased civil proceedings at DC Courts. The Office of Revenue Analysis is unable to determine how many additional cases could be brought to court, but any additional cases would impact the operations of DC Courts which is funded by the Federal Government.