

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



**Natwar M. Gandhi**  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Kwame R. Brown  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Natwar M. Gandhi   
Chief Financial Officer

**DATE:** March 27, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement - "Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board of Directors Act of 2012"

**REFERENCE:** Draft Bill shared with OCFO on March 9, 2012

---

**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2012 budget and the proposed FY 2013 through FY 2016 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) was created in 1967 by an interstate compact to plan, develop, build, finance, and operate a balanced regional transportation system in the national capital area.<sup>1</sup> Each member jurisdiction appoints two members and two alternates to the WMATA Board of Directors.<sup>2</sup> Currently, the Council of the District of Columbia appoints all four of the District's appointees with no defined term limits.

The bill outlines specific qualifications for consideration for appointees to the WMATA Board and creates a framework for staggered terms, including term limits. The bill requires that an individual appointed to the Board not have worked directly for WMATA within the one year preceding appointment, be qualified in areas of transit and transportation planning and management, engineering, finance, public safety, homeland security, human resources, or law, provide reports to the Mayor and Council regarding attendance at WMATA meetings and public events, and affirm his or her use of WMATA services.

---

<sup>1</sup> Information on WMATA can be found at [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com).

<sup>2</sup> The jurisdictions are Virginia, the District, Maryland, and the Federal government. The Federal government does not select alternate members (D.C. Official Code § 9-1107.01(5)(a)).

The Honorable Kwame R. Brown

FIS: Draft, "Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board of Directors Act of 2012," shared with OCFO on March 9, 2012

Additionally, the bill creates staggered appointments beginning on January 1, 2013 with one principal Director serving four years, his or her alternate serving three years, a second principal Director serving two years, and his or her alternate serving one year. Terms that last less than four years in the new system due to the staggered appointments shall not count toward the appointed Director's limit of two consecutive four year terms.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2012 through FY 2015 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The Council currently appoints two members and their alternates to represent the District on the WMATA Board of Directors. The bill outlines specific qualifications for consideration in appointing Directors and creates staggered appointment terms with limits, but does not impose any fiscal burdens on the District.