

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

CHAIRMANGRAY

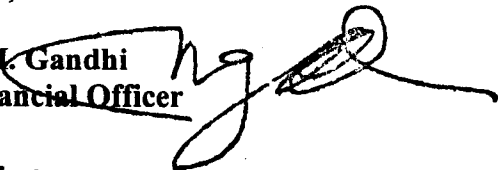


2008 JUN 17 AM 9: 50

Natwar M. Gandhi  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Vincent C. Gray  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

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

**DATE:** JUN 17 2008

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement: "Injured Fire Fighter Relief Amendment Act of 2008"

**REFERENCE:** Bill 17-676, Committee Print dated June 10, 2008

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 budget and proposed FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation.

**Background**

The proposed legislation would amend D.C. Official Code § 5-633 to require that members of the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS) who sustain any serious or life threatening illness or injury requiring critical care treatment in a hospital intensive care unit or its equivalent have an extension of the number of allowable work days in a less-than-full-duty status from 64 days to 170 days over a 2-year period following the date of such illness or injury.

The proposed bill would require said member to be provided with additional non-chargeable medical leave and disability compensation pay until the member either achieves maximum medical improvement or is processed for retirement after having spent more than 170 cumulative work days in less-than-full-duty status over the 2-year period.

Finally, the proposed bill provides that if after 170 cumulative work days in less-than-full-time status over the 2-year period, said member is fully capable of providing service to the

Department in a non-firefighting manner, including but not limited to staffing the divisions of the Training Academy, Professional Standards, Fleet Management, Facilities Maintenance, Fire Prevention and Education, and equipment maintenance, or other non firefighting duty, the Department would be required to so employ the member.

The Burned Fire Fighter Relief Temporary Amendment Act of 2008 was enacted on February 22, 2008, has been effective since April 15, 2008 and expires on November 26, 2008. While the intent of the temporary act is similar to that of the proposed permanent bill, it contains substantive differences when compared to the proposed bill.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 budget and proposed FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation.

Currently, there is one (1) firefighter who would be affected by this bill. Based on current trends, the number of personnel affected by this bill would likely cause a fiscal impact that could be absorbed with existing FEMS resources. However, if as a result of enactment of the proposed legislation more claims are made that meet the requirements for extension as provided in this bill, it could cause future spending pressures for FEMS.

Under current law, the Medical Services Officer, in consultation with the Medical Director at the Police and Fire Clinic, can request an extension of time in disability proceedings for referral to the District of Columbia Police and Firefighters Retirement and Relief Board ("Board"). Based on information provided to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) from the Board, from the beginning of calendar year 2005 through the end of calendar year 2007, four firefighters requested additional time to recuperate, and three of these requests were granted.