

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



Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: November 15, 2020

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Diverse Washingtonians Commemorative Works Amendment Act of 2020

REFERENCE: Bill 23-233, Committee Print provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 10, 2020

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill will cost \$30,000 in fiscal year 2021 for the University of the District of Columbia to complete the required report on commemorative work recommendations.

Background

A commemorative work is a statue, monument, sculpture, streetscape, landscape or other structure or feature that is designed to perpetuate the memory of an individual, event or other significant element of culture or history. Under current law, commemorative works are sponsored through a application process to the Commemorative Works Committee (“Committee”), which reviews applications and recommends commemorative works to the Mayor and Council.¹

The bill makes changes to the process for planning and approving the placement of a commemorative work in the District. First, the bill reduces the number of Committee members from 12 to nine, to include: two citizen members appointed by the Mayor, three citizen members appointed by the Chairman of the Council, the Director of the Office of Planning, the Director of the Department of Parks and Revenue, the Chairperson of the Historic Preservation Review Board, and the Chairperson of the Commission on the Arts and humanities. Under current law, five additional government officials are members and there are two fewer citizen members.

¹ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.11

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Diverse Washingtonians Commemorative Works Amendment Act of 2020," Bill 23-233, Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 10, 2020.

Second, the bill clarifies and modifies some parts of the current commemorative works application procedures and standards. The bill requires that applications for commemorative works must go first to the Office of Planning, which will forward the applications to the Committee. Currently, no agency is specified to receive the applications. The bill requires that at least one application must be accepted each year for consideration of sponsorship by a District agency. If a District agency is the one proposing the work, the agency must consult with the Commission on Arts and Humanities on design prior to submitting the application. The bill clarifies that proposed commemorative works must be accompanied by reasons that the proposed person should be selected, and requires that priority should be given to works in which the subject is a native Washingtonian or person from a socially disadvantaged group who made Washington their home.

Third, the bill requires the University of the District of Columbia to complete a report recommending 12 proposed commemorative works to honor "remarkable diverse native Washingtonians who left positive indelible marks on American or District culture or history."

Lastly, the bill requires that any resolution for approval of a commemorative work initiated by the Mayor be accompanied by a fiscal impact statement at time of introduction.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The University of the District of Columbia will require \$30,000 in fiscal year 2021 to complete the required report recommending 12 commemorative works.

The changes made to the Committee makeup and to the process for commemorative work applications and review do not have a cost.

Diverse Washingtonians Commemorative Works Amendment Act of 2020					
Bill 23-233					
Fiscal Year 2021 - Fiscal Year 2024					
(\$ thousands)					
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Total
University of the District of Columbia report on proposed Commemorative works	\$30	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30