

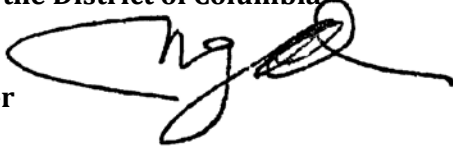
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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: October 6, 2011

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Amendment Act of 2011”

REFERENCE: Bill 19-360, as introduced on June 21, 2011

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2012 through FY 2015 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. The proposed changes would increase program costs by \$75,000 in the FY 2012 budget and approximately \$1 million in the four-year financial plan period.

The implementation of the proposed legislation is subject to its inclusion in an approved budget and financial plan.

Background

The District of Columbia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (“Ombudsman Program”) advocates for the rights of persons living in nursing, assisted living, and community residence facilities. Additionally, the program investigates and resolves complaints and monitors quality of care, services provided, and quality of life for residents of these facilities.

The proposed legislation amends the District of Columbia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Act of 1988¹ to add to the roles and responsibilities of the Ombudsman Program long-term care provided by a home care agency² for residents.

¹ Effective March 16, 1989 (D.C. Law 7-218; D.C. Official Code § 7-701.01 *et seq.*)

² D.C. Official Code § 44-501.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2012 through FY 2015 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation.

The Ombudsman Program does not currently cover home-care agencies. According to the D.C. Office of Aging, there are 3,980 residents receiving services at home-care agencies in the District. The Ombudsman Program would have to significantly expand its staffing to cover these residents.³ The table below outlines the projected cost of expanding the program to cover these residents.

Estimated Fiscal Impact of Bill 19-360 Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Amendment Act of 2011 FY 2012 – FY 2015 ^a					
Cost Elements	FY 2012 ^b	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	Total
Personnel ^c	\$65,875	\$264,848	\$270,523	\$277,144	\$878,390
Training	\$1,750	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$22,750
Travel	\$875	\$3,519	\$3,600	\$3,695	\$11,689
Supplies and Equipment	\$1,500	\$6,033	\$6,172	\$6,334	\$20,039
Other Indirect Costs	\$5,000	\$20,110	\$20,573	\$21,113	\$66,796
Total Costs	\$75,000	\$301,511	\$307,868	\$315,286	\$999,664

Table Notes

^a Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

^b FY 2012 implementation is expected in July 2012, subject to inclusion in an approved budget and financial plan.

^c Personnel additions include four full-time and two part-time employees.

The Ombudsman Program currently receives a grant from the D.C. Office of Aging to carry out its responsibilities.⁴ The implementation of the proposed legislation would require that grant to be increased by \$75,000 in FY 2012, and \$999,664 in the four-year financial plan period.

³ To put this figure in context, the Ombudsman Program's currently assists assist over 2,900 long term care residents and investigated over 1,820 complaints with an annual budget of roughly \$270,000.

⁴ In FY 2011, the program received a \$277,425 grant, partly funded by D.C. Office of Aging, partly by District's Health Care Finance Agency.