


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:** October 1, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Certificate of Stillbirth Amendment Act of 2020

**REFERENCE:** Bill 23-529, Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on September 25, 2020

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

Nearly one percent<sup>1</sup> of pregnancies in the District of Columbia result in the delivery of a fetus where there is a naturally occurring intrauterine fetal death that occurs after 20 weeks of gestation. The bill requires<sup>2</sup> that the Department of Health (DC Health) establish a certificate of stillbirth for naturally occurring intrauterine fetal deaths. The certificate must be on a form similar, as applicable, to a certificate issued for a record of live birth. Parents issued a certificate of stillbirth may elect to have the disclosure of and access to the information included on a certificate limited to themselves, their lawful representatives, DOH authorized personnel, and the State Registrar of Vital Records.

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<sup>1</sup> Reported Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates in the District of Columbia 2011-2015:  
<https://doh.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/Pregnancy%20Outcomes%202011-2015%20%28Final%29%20%2810.31.17%29.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> By amending Title I of the Vital Records Modernization Amendment Act of 2018, effective October 30, 2018 (D.C. Law 22-164; D.C. Official Code § 7-231.01 et seq.).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 23-529, "Certificate of Stillbirth Amendment Act of 2020," Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on September 25, 2020

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

DC Health's Vital Records Division must upgrade its Customer Service Management System in order to process and issue stillbirth certificates. The cost to complete these upgrades is \$12,000 in fiscal year 2021 and ongoing maintenance, support, and hosting for these upgrades will cost \$3,000 annually beginning in fiscal year 2022. DC Health can absorb the cost of this upgrade and does not require additional resources to implement the bill.

Bill 23-529, Certificate of Stillbirth Amendment Act of 2020 Total Costs					
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Total
IT Upgrades	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$21,000