


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 30, 2016

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Stun Gun Regulation Amendment Act of 2016

REFERENCE: Bill 21-886, Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 28, 2016

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2020 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill defines, legalizes, and regulates stun guns¹ in the District. The bill permits only individuals 18 years of age and older to possess a stun gun and allows the individual to use the stun gun in the reasonable defense of his or her person or property.² The bill bans stun guns in District government occupied buildings, penal institutions, child occupied facilities, and buildings where the owner clearly prohibits their possession.³ The bill also requires a business that sells over five stun guns over twelve months to obtain a stun gun endorsement on its general business license.

The bill eliminates registration requirements for self-defense sprays.⁴

The bill also allows the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to resolve any violations of stun gun and self-defense spray laws through an administrative disposition. The bill adds stun gun

¹ A stun gun is a device designed, redesigned, made, remade, converted, or restored and used offensively or defensively to immobilize or incapacitate an individual through the use of an electric current or pulse.

² An individual under the age of 18 years would not be in violation of the bill if his or her possession of the stun gun was temporary in response to an immediate threat of harm.

³ Law enforcement officers are exempt.

⁴ As defined in D.C. Official Code § 7-2502.12.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Stun Gun Regulation Amendment Act of 2016," Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 28, 2016

possession as an eligible circumstance for which a crime of violence or dangerous crime penalty can be enhanced.⁵

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2020 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Legalization and regulation of stun guns does not have a cost, however the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) will develop the stun gun endorsement to accompany its general business license in its web portal. The enhancement to the web portal is a one-time cost \$50,000 in fiscal year 2017. DCRA is unable to absorb this cost within its existing resources.

⁵ D.C. Official Code § 22-4502.