

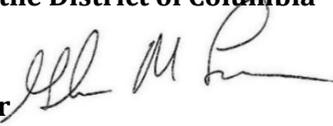
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: March 2, 2026

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Architect and Engineer Good Samaritan
Amendment Act of 2026

REFERENCE: Bill 26-173, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue
Analysis on February 17, 2026

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2026 through fiscal year 2029 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill limits liability for any licensed architect or engineer who volunteers their expertise during certain emergency situations. These professionals are protected from civil liability for acts or omissions during the emergency absent gross negligence or willful misconduct. This protection extends to these professions when the Mayor has declared a public emergency or within 90 days following the end of a life-threatening emergency in the built environment.¹ The professional's actions should be made in good faith at the direction of a federal or District official acting in an official capacity. The professionals, who cannot be compensated, must complete a training program that uses the California Office of Emergency Management's Safety Assessment Program.

¹ The bill defines the built environment as the human-constructed surroundings that support human activities, including buildings, transport systems, and landscapes.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 26-173, "Architect and Engineer Good Samaritan Amendment Act of 2026," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on February 17, 2026

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2026 through fiscal year 2029 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. There are no costs associated with limiting the civil liability for architects and engineers called upon during a declared public emergency or other life-threatening emergency impacting the built environment. The bill's limitation on liability does not extend to acts of gross negligence or willful misconduct.