# 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

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FROM: Jeffrey S. DeWitt

**Chief Financial Officer** 

**DATE:** November 19, 2020

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement - Rental Housing Source of Income

**Amendment Act of 2020** 

REFERENCE: Bill 23-528, Committee Print, with no changes from the Introduced

Version

#### Conclusion

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

#### **Background**

The bill amends the Housing Act of 2002¹ to extend the protections offered to holders of federally-funded Section 8 rental housing vouchers to holders of District-funded rental assistance, so that landlords must consider the rental assistance as meeting the minimum income qualification requirement for tenants and landlords must not discriminate against or refuse to rent to a person using District-funded rental assistance. The bill furthers establishes that landlords must affirmatively state in all advertising to prospective tenants that they will not refuse to rent a dwelling unit to a person who pays in whole or in part with any kind of rental assistance.

## **Financial Plan Impact**

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Effective April 19, 2002 (D.C. Law 14-114; D.C. Official Code § 42-2851.06).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson FIS: Bill 23-528, "Rental Housing Source of Income Act of 2020," Committee Print, with no changes from the Introduced Version

The bill establishes protections for rental assistance voucher holders by including District-funded vouchers and clarifies non-discrimination requirements for landlords. Both the Office of Human Rights (OHR) and the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) currently receive and investigate source of income discrimination complaints and landlord practices. Neither agency requires additional resources to cover the expanded protections in the bill.