

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 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Library E-book Pricing Fairness Amendment Act of 2026

REFERENCE: Bill 26-490, 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 prohibits the District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) from entering into or renewing any contracts with publishers that limit DCPL's loaning of digital materials to borrowers or engage in certain pricing behaviors. Some of the disallowed terms include:

- Limiting the number of times DCPL may loan a digital copy over the course of a contract, if that contract also restricts the loan period for the material;
- Limiting the purchase of electronic material when it is already available to the general public;
- Requiring licenses for materials that are at a price the Board of the DCPL finds to be an unconscionable sale¹; and
- Restricting the disclosure of contract terms to other libraries.

The bill is effective only if ten or more states enact substantially similar laws, and the aggregate population of those states exceeds 50 million people.

¹ D.C. Official Code § 28-3904(r).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 24-401, "Library E-book Pricing Fairness Amendment Act of 2026," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on February 17, 2026

DCPL is required to update Council quarterly on whether other states have enacted substantially similar laws.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2026 through fiscal year 2029 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. If the bill becomes effective, then DCPL will stop purchasing of electronic materials from prohibited vendors. As electronic materials are purchased from DCPL's collections budget, DCPL will redirect funding that would have been spent on electronic materials toward other materials.