

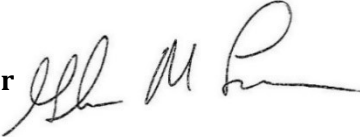
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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: November 20, 2024

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Child Marriage Prohibition Amendment Act of 2024

REFERENCE: Bill 25-955, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 1, 2024

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2028 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

Under the current District code, certain 16- and 17-year-old individuals may enter into marriage, provided that their parent (or guardian, if applicable) consents to the marriage. Prior to 2018, all states permitted child marriage (defined as a marriage in which one of the parties is under the age of 18) in at least some circumstances. Those circumstances could include children who were emancipated, children who were pregnant, individuals whose parents or guardians consented to the marriage, marriages between individuals close in age, or by court approval.

Since 2018, thirteen states have eliminated child marriage under any circumstances (Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Rhode Island, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, Michigan, Washington, Virginia, and New Hampshire). In 2022, Maryland raised the age to 18 (and permitted 17-year-olds to marry with parental and court permission).¹

¹ Article – Family Law §2-301. [Laws - Statute Text](#)

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 25-955, "Child Marriage Prohibition Amendment Act of 2024", Draft Committee print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 1, 2024

This bill amends the statute permitting child marriage in certain circumstances to prohibit the District from issuing a marriage license to anyone under the age of 18, and defining the age of marital consent to be 18.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2028 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The Marriage Bureau at the DC Courts issues marriage licenses and authorizes religious and civil celebrants to perform weddings in the District of Columbia, and the Bureau operates through the federal budget.