


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:** September 6, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Department of Forensic Sciences Services  
and Fees Clarification Amendment Act of 2019

**REFERENCE:** Draft Bill as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on September  
3, 2019

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 budget and the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

The Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS) leads the District's collection, examination, and reporting activities for physical evidence from criminal investigations and testing of toxins, organisms, and other public health threats. DFS can perform these activities for both District and federal agencies. In fiscal year 2018, the Council granted DFS the authority to charge fees for performing environmental testing services and providing expert witness testimony.

The bill expands DFS' duties to include public health laboratory services for the District generally, at the request of District agencies, other governmental jurisdictions, hospitals, or other health-related entities. The bill authorizes DFS to charge fees for these public health laboratory services and to deposit them into the Department of Forensic Sciences Laboratory Fund (Fund).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Forensic Sciences Establishment Amendment Act of 2017, effective December 13, 2017 (D.C. Law 22-33; D.C. Official Code § 5-1501.06a).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Department of Forensic Sciences Services and Fees Clarification Amendment Act of 2019," Draft Bill as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on September 3, 2019

**Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 budget and the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. DFS has not established a fee schedule and therefore our office does not project any fee revenue from providing public health laboratory services. Once fees are established and collected, DFS will deposit them into the Fund.