

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: June 28, 2019

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Department of Motor Vehicles Ignition
Interlock Amendment Act of 2019

REFERENCE: Draft Bill as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on June 6, 2019

Conclusion

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

Background

An ignition interlock device is one connected to a vehicle's ignition system that requires a driver to blow into it to detect the driver's alcohol level before the vehicle will start. A driver may also be prompted to blow again while driving. The District requires a District-resident driver who is convicted of alcohol-related driving offenses to participate in the Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) Ignition Interlock System Program (Program) in order to operate a motor vehicle under a restricted license.¹ Program participants must operate their vehicles with an ignition interlock device for six months, one year, or two years depending on whether it is a first, second, or third (or subsequent) conviction for an alcohol-related offense.

The bill gives DMV the authority to revoke a driver's driving privileges or suspend a driver's vehicle registration if the driver does not enter the Program within thirty days of the DMV notification that she or he must participate in the Program. If the driver enters the Program after thirty days has elapsed, DMV will reinstate driving privileges and vehicle registration.

¹ Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Clarification Amendment Act of 2018, effective March 29, 2018 (D.C. Law 22-77; D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.05a).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Department of Motor Vehicles Ignition Interlock Amendment Act of 2019," Draft Bill as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on June 6, 2019

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 and the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. DMV will provide affected drivers with thirty days notice and revoke driving privileges or suspend vehicle registrations if they fail to enter the Program. DMV can implement the bill with existing budgeted resources.