


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:** November 30, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement - Encouraging Foster Children to Have  
Connections with Siblings Amendment Act of 2015 (including  
emergency and temporary versions of the bill)

**REFERENCE:** Draft bill (including emergency and temporary versions) sent to the  
Office of Revenue Analysis on November 30, 2015

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*This fiscal impact statement replaces the statement we issued on October 28, 2015 for the Encouraging the Placement of Foster Children with Siblings Amendment Act of 2015. This updated fiscal impact statement reflects the new name of the legislation. The content of the legislation remains the same.*

**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2019 budget and financial plan to implement the bill along with its emergency and temporary versions.

**Background**

The Child and Family Services Agency encourages the placement of foster children with siblings and other kin. This legislation expands<sup>1</sup> the definition of a sibling to include siblings who no longer live with a biological parent.<sup>2</sup>

The federal government is requiring<sup>3</sup> states to adopt this expanded definition of a sibling. States that do not adopt this definition by January 1, 2016 will lose their Title IV-E funding.

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<sup>1</sup> By amending The Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective September 23, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-22; D.C. Official Code § 4-1301.01 *et seq.*)

<sup>2</sup> Due to the termination of parental rights or the death of a parent.

<sup>3</sup> Through Section 209 of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (P.L. 113-183).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Encouraging Foster Children to Have Connections with Siblings Amendment Act of 2015 (including emergency and temporary versions of the bill)," Draft legislation sent to the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 30, 2015

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2019 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The legislation will not affect the level of resources the Child and Family Services Agency needs to place children in foster care; therefore, the legislation has no fiscal impact. However, if the District does not pass this legislation by January 1, 2016, the District will lose its Title IV-E funding from the federal government, which it uses to fund child welfare services.