

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:** October 6, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Expedited Adoption Eligibility Expansion  
Amendment Act of 2022

**REFERENCE:** Bill 24-125, Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue  
Analysis on September 26, 2022

---

**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

Currently, all adoptions that occur in the District of Columbia require a home study, criminal background check, and, in some cases, a hearing, before the court issues an adoption order. Parents that use assisted reproductive technology<sup>1</sup> to have a child must also complete this adoption process to confirm parental rights.

The bill establishes<sup>2</sup> an expedited adoption process that allows intended parents<sup>3</sup> who use assisted reproductive technology to confirm parental rights without having to complete a home study, criminal background check, or hearing. To be eligible for an expedited adoption, one of the intended parents must have given birth to the child or the child must be born through gestational surrogacy brought about by one or both intended parents. The intended parents must file a joint petition for expedited adoption with the court and include certain supporting documentation. The court must

---

<sup>1</sup> As defined in the bill.

<sup>2</sup> By amending Chapter 3 of Title 16 of the District of Columbia Official Code.

<sup>3</sup> Including a married couple, domestic partners, partners in a civil union, individuals who maintain a committed relationship, or individuals who signed a consent to parent form.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 24-125, "Expedited Adoption Eligibility Expansion Act of 2022," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on September 26, 2022

accept this joint petition as evidence of consent by the birth parent to proceed with the adoption. The court must issue a final decree of adoption if the filing shows that the intended parents used assisted reproductive technology to produce a child of their union and no other person has a claim to parentage of the prospective adoptee.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Establishing an expedited adoption process for intended parents who use assisted reproduction technology does not have a cost to the District of Columbia.