

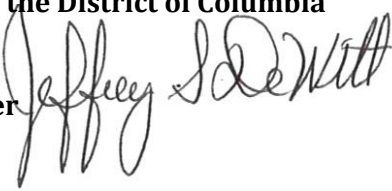
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeff DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Jeff DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: June 19, 2014

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Prohibition of the Harm of Police Animals
Amendment Act of 2014

REFERENCE: Bill 20-191, Draft Committee Print as Shared with the Office of Revenue
Analysis on June 10, 2014

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the proposed FY 2015 through FY 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill imposes penalties against an individual who harms a police animal or owner of an animal that does the same.¹ An act of harassing, injuring, or obstructing a police animal is a misdemeanor and can result in a penalty of up to 180 days in prison or a fine up to \$1,000. An act that causes significant bodily injury² to or the death of a police animal is a felony and can result in a penalty of up to 10 years in prison or a fine up to \$37,500.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the proposed FY 2015 through FY 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The actions covered by this bill are rare occurrences in the District and there are no costs associated with implementation. Any fine revenues resulting from convictions are expected to be minimal and would be retained by the DC Courts system, which is federally run.

¹ A police animal is a dog, horse, or other animal used in law enforcement or other public safety efforts whether or not the animal is engaged in official duties when a violation of this bill occurs.

² An injury resulting in hospitalization or immediate medical attention.