


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: February 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Public Charter School Closure Amendment Act of 2020

REFERENCE: Bill 23-281, Committee Print provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on February 14, 2020

Conclusion

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

Background

When the DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB) revokes or determines not to renew a public charter school's charter, the board often allows the existing school leadership to remain in place until the end of the school year to minimize disruption to students. The bill authorizes the PCSB to impose interim conditions on the closing school to protect public funds, ensure positive outcomes for students or provide efficient distribution of assets.

The bill does not list specific interim actions that may be taken, but examples of interim measures provided in testimony by the PCSB included limiting dollar value of financial transactions made by the school without PCSB approval, requiring retention bonuses to teachers, or requiring a school hire more staff to ensure the school is stable throughout the school year.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The DC Public Charter School Board does not require additional resources to exercise authority to impose interim restrictions as needed on charter schools being closed.