

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: November 6, 2014

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Sex Trafficking of Children Prevention
Amendment Act of 2014

REFERENCE: Bill 20-714, Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue
Analysis on November 6, 2014

Conclusion

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

Background

The bill expands the behavioral health screening, which is required when a minor¹ is brought into the custody of the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) or the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS), to include screening for victims, or potential victims, of sex trafficking of children.² To ensure that social workers and case managers are properly trained in screening for these victims and potential victims, the bill requires both agencies, and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), to implement a four-hour training program³ to cover legal responsibilities, community services, identification techniques, and the overall dimension of human trafficking in the District. If a child is identified as being a past victim or a potential victim, CFSA must comply with more stringent standards of reporting a child to MPD as a missing person if a child disappears from a CFSA housing placement.

The bill also imposes a few additional requirements on MPD. First, MPD should alert CFSA to any youth it discovers engaging in or attempting to engage in a sexual act in exchange for something of

¹ A minor is an individual younger than 18 years of age.

² As defined in D.C. Official Code § 22-1834.

³ The agencies should consult with community organizations that specialize in human trafficking for the development and presentation of the training programs.

value. Second, MPD must report to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children any children who are deemed 'critical missing' or have been missing for thirty days. Third, the bill prohibits the prosecution of a person under the age of 18 who engages in or attempts to engage in a sex act in exchange for something of value. Instead, MPD should refer the individual for appropriate support services.

Financial Plan Impact

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

CFSA brings into custody for the first time over three hundred youth⁴ each year and assess them through the behavioral screen. The agency also has a comprehensive process to support children who have been subject to physical and sexual abuse through its Multidisciplinary Team.⁵ CFSA can implement the additional screening with existing resources. CFSA will need to ensure approximately four hundred staff members are properly trained.⁶ The Agency currently provides a six-hour training that includes all but one of the bill's required training components. That last component can be added to the training with existing resources.

DYRS screens every youth that it takes into custody within four hours of entry. The agency can identify victims of sex trafficking through its current screening process and no additional resources are required. DYRS will need to expend \$12,000 for one-time programming of a training course to train its approximately thirty-five case managers⁷ who handle the behavioral screenings. This cost can be absorbed within the agency's existing resources.

MPD already has a four-hour human trafficking course that will need to be incorporated as a mandatory course in its training schedule. This can be done with existing resources, but cannot be implemented until fiscal year 2016 because MPD plans its training curriculum a year in advance.

⁴ Includes youth up to age 21.

⁵ D.C. Official Code § 4-1301.51.

⁶ Beyond any required initial trainings, CFSA expects to train approximately one hundred staff members annually.

⁷ DYRS brings on approximately eight new case managers each year and that is expected to be the training need beyond the initial period.