

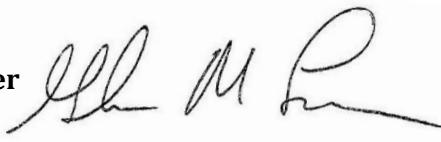
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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: January 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Statutory Neglect Amendment Act of 2025

REFERENCE: Bill 26-400, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on January 22, 2026

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2026 through fiscal year 2029 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill updates¹ statutory definition of “neglect” in the District of Columbia Official Code to clarify that neglect cannot be solely attributed to a lack of financial means, homelessness, or unstable housing. The Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) cannot use a parent or guardian’s eligibility for public benefits or homelessness as sole evidence of neglect.

The bill also clarifies that the term “abuse” does not include physical discipline administered by a parent, guardian, or custodian to their child, provided that the child is at least three years of age, and the physical discipline is reasonable in manner and moderate in degree.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2026 through fiscal year 2029 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Updating the statutory definitions of “neglect” and “abuse” to clarify that “neglect” cannot be solely attributed to a lack of financial means, homelessness, or unstable housing and that

¹ By amending Chapter 23 of Title 16 of the District of Columbia Official Code.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Statutory Neglect Amendment Act of 2025," Bill 26-400, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on January 22, 2026.

"abuse" does not some types of physical discipline does not have a cost. CFSA can implement the bill without additional resources.