

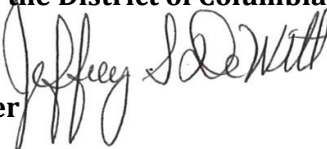
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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: November 4, 2019

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Strangulation Prohibition Amendment Act of 2019

REFERENCE: Draft Bill as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 30, 2019

Conclusion

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

Background

The bill establishes a felony offense of strangulation where a person knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly restricts the circulation of blood or breathing of another person through the application of pressure on the throat or neck or blocking the nose or mouth of that person. Any person convicted of strangulation will be imprisoned for up to five years, fined up to \$12,500, or both.¹ Currently, strangulation using an item is a felony, but manual strangulation is a misdemeanor.

The bill authorizes prosecutors to enhance these penalties if the strangulation results in serious bodily injury, the perpetrator was subject to an order or requirement to stay away from or have no contact with the victim, the perpetrator had been convicted of an intrafamily offense within the prior five years, or the victim was pregnant. If these conditions are met, prosecutors can increase the penalties by one-and-a-half times the prescribed levels.

¹ Criminal Fine Proportionality Amendment Act of 2012, effective June 11, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-317; D.C. Official Code § 22-3571.01).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Strangulation Prohibition Amendment Act of 2019," Draft Bill as shared with the Office of Revenue
Analysis on October 30, 2019

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill's implementation gives prosecutors the ability to charge a perpetrator with manual strangulation as a felony and impose enhanced penalties if certain conditions are met. There are no costs associated with the bill's implementation.