


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: June 21, 2023

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Fairness in Renting Clarification Amendment Act of 2023

REFERENCE: Bill 25-74, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on June 16, 2023

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 budget and the fiscal year 2024 through fiscal year 2027 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill prohibits a landlord from charging a tenant any fee other than an application fee, prior to signing a lease. If a tenant is applying for other units owned or operated by the same housing provider within a thirty-day period, the bill requires the housing provider to charge only one application fee.

The bill prohibits housing providers from charging a tenant or prospective tenant a fee for a service the housing provider should already be performing to maintain a unit in a condition consistent with regulations and the standard of ordinary wear and tear. The bill limits the fee charged for a tenant to sublease, assign, or find a replacement tenant for a unit to the amount of the maximum allowable application fee, which is currently \$50¹.

Lastly, the bill increases the minimum notice to tenants for rent increases from 30 to 60 days.

¹ D.C. Official Code § 42-3505.10(b)(1).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 25-74, "Fairness in Renting Clarification Amendment Act of 2023," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on June 16, 2023

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 budget and the fiscal year 2024 through fiscal year 2027 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) indicates there may be costs associated with updating forms in the rent control database² being developed and transferred from the Office of the Tenant Advocate, which could delay that project. However, DHCD can absorb the costs necessary to implement the bill.

² D.C. Official Code § 42-3502.03c.