

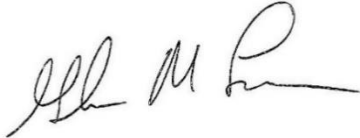
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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: November 16, 2022

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Internet Equity Amendment Act of 2022

REFERENCE: Bill 24-200, Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue
Analysis on November 13, 2022

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill directs the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) to work toward identifying and removing barriers to equitable access to internet services in the District. It amends the statutory statement of purpose¹ and list of functions of the Office of the Chief Technology Officer to add language directing that OCTO will work to ensure District “residents and businesses have reasonable, affordable and equitable access to high-speed internet services.”

The bill requires OCTO to provide an “internet equity status report” within 90 days of the effective date of the bill, to include information about the District’s participation in federal programs authorized under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (“the Act”).² It must include a description of anticipated uses of any funds received or in application, as well as funding OCTO elects not to seek under the Act.

The bill requires OCTO to provide a feasibility study, within one year of the effective date of the bill, of a project or projects that would increase District-owned fiber and conduit broadband

¹ D.C. Official Code § 1-1402.

² Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429, approved November 15, 2021.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 24-200, "Internet Equity Amendment Act of 2022," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 13, 2022

infrastructure in areas needing affordable internet services along with estimates of cost, benefit, and potential timelines.

The bill requires OCTO to provide an "internet equity gap assessment report" within one year of the effective date of the bill. The report will examine whether existing District programs, including those receiving funding under the Act, will achieve, within three years, home internet access for households earning 50 percent or less of the median family income, with adequate speed and reliability at a cost of no more than 0.5 percent of household income. If the goal is not likely to be met with existing programs, the report should provide the estimated steps and cost needed to meet the goal.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2022 budget and proposed fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The Office of the Chief Technology Officer is engaged in the overall directive of the bill to improve affordable internet access, and it can provide the reports and plans required by the bill.