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 JJL M 5

DATE: November 8, 2022

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement - Omnibus Firearm and Ghost Gun

Clarification Amendment Act of 2022

REFERENCE: Bill 24-760, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue

Analysis on October 28, 2022

Conclusion

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

Background

District law prohibits the possession and registration of ghost guns¹ as well as the manufacture of firearms, destructive devices, and ammunition. The bill clarifies² the definition of ghost guns to prohibit only undetectable and untraceable firearms while permitting the self-manufacture of serialized registered firearms made solely for personal use.

The bill also makes several changes to the District gun laws including:

- Clarifying which off-duty law enforcement officers are exempt from gun possession laws by conforming District law with federal law;
- Limits the location and circumstances under which an off-duty law enforcement officers can carry firearms;
- Extends the prohibition on carrying a pistol while impaired to people who are not licensed to carry;

¹ Ghost guns are firearms that are undetectable and untraceable.

² By amending The Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975, effective September 24, 1976 (D.C. Law 1-85; D.C. Official Code § 7-2501.01 et seq.).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 24-760, "Omnibus Firearm and Ghost Gun Clarification Amendment Act of 2022," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 28, 2022

- Prohibits people who are subject to a no-contact or stay-away order from possessing firearms; and
- Clarifies that the unlawful transportation of a firearm is a standalone criminal offense prosecutable by the Office of the Attorney General.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The District already enforces a ban on ghost guns and clarifying the definition of ghost gun has no cost. The Metropolitan Police Department can register self-manufactured serialized firearms with current staff and resources. The changes to firearm laws can be implemented by both the Metropolitan Police Department and the Office of the Attorney General with existing resources.