

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 8, 2022

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Senior Nutrition, Health, and Well-Being
Equity Act of 2022

REFERENCE: Bill 24-823, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue
Analysis on November 3, 2022



Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill will cost \$388,000 in fiscal year 2023 and \$1.6 million over the four-year financial plan.

Background

The Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL) provides meals to seniors, both through home-delivered meals and through community dining sites. The bill requires DACL to routinely evaluate the quality of food choices in those programs, through regular taste-tests and by soliciting feedback from seniors receiving meals, and to provide that feedback to meal vendors.

The bill further requires DACL to screen all of its clients for housing and housing-related needs and refer them to appropriate government and private resources. Before making such referral, DACL shall inform clients of the basic eligibility requirements for a service. DACL shall include data on all its housing referrals in its annual report to Council.

The bill requires DACL to collaborate with the appropriate District agency to offer training to home health aides on the following:

- cultural competency for the District's senior population;
- common dietary preparations and meals; and,

- techniques to accommodate clients' needs and requests, in collaboration with advice from a health practitioner or nutritionist.

The bill requires DACL to establish within one year, one or more programs to regularly check on seniors' physical, mental, and emotional well-being (Call-Check Program). DACL shall promote the program to all District seniors, and seniors and their bona fide family members must be able to voluntarily register for the program. DACL must report to the Council on the program's operations twice each fiscal year.

The bill requires DACL to mail information on all DACL's services at least once per year to all District residents age 60 and older. The mailer shall at a minimum be an in-depth resource guide and shall be mailed within six months of the act's effective date. The guide should detail all current services and programs provided by DACL and local service providers, including relevant contact information, hours of operation, and registration or application instructions.

The bill establishes a Community-led Task Group (Group) for the purpose of providing suggestions to DACL on how to improve the overall well-being and quality of life of seniors, with a specific focus on outreach and engagement. The Group shall be composed of 13 members appointed by the Council. Each participant of the Group shall receive reimbursement of all expenses related to their participation in the Group, not to exceed \$1,000 annually.

DACL has an Adult Protective Services (APS) team that works to protect vulnerable adults from physical, financial, or emotional abuse, as well as neglect and self-neglect by connecting them to needed services. The bill requires DACL to enter all reports of abuse and neglect into its case management system, and it requires DACL to record in the system any service referrals for such cases and how the case was resolved.

The bill requires DACL to screen its clients for eligibility and need referral to assisted living or nursing home facilities and to keep data on the number of cases referred to each type of facility, the age of individuals referred, and the number of vacancies of assisted living and nursing home facilities. DACL shall include the data on assisted living and nursing home referrals in its annual report to Council.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill will cost \$388,000 in fiscal year 2023 and \$1.6 million over the four-year financial plan.

DACL already provides or can absorb the work required under the bill related to evaluating food quality, screening customers for housing needs, and connecting customers to needed services (and recording reports of abuse and neglect). The bill requires two additional staff positions – one at the Department of Health (DOH) to coordinate training for home health care aides, and one at DACL to expand its Call-Check programs. The Call-Check program will also require \$45,000 of annual funding for adaptive technology and \$3,000 for text services. The publication of the resource guide and regular mailings about senior services requires \$146,000 beginning in fiscal year 2023 for printing and mailing costs. The bill also requires \$7,000 annually for staff-related equipment costs and reimbursement of Community-led Task Group members' expenses. In total, implementation of the bill requires \$388,000 in fiscal year 2023 and \$1.6 million over the financial plan.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 24-823, "Senior Nutrition, Health, and Well-Being Equity Act of 2022," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 3, 2022

Senior Nutrition, Health and Well-Being Equity Act of 2022					
Total Costs					
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	Total
Training Coordinator (Salary and Fringe)	\$104,000	\$106,000	\$108,000	\$110,000	\$428,000
Call-Check Specialist (Salary and Fringe)	\$86,000	\$88,000	\$90,000	\$92,000	\$356,000
Call-Check Equipment and costs	\$45,000	\$46,000	\$47,000	\$48,000	\$186,000
Printing and Mailing	\$146,000	\$149,000	\$152,000	\$155,000	\$602,000
Staff equipment and Group Expense Reimbursements	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$28,000
Total Costs	\$388,000	\$396,000	\$ 404,000	\$412,000	\$1,600,000