

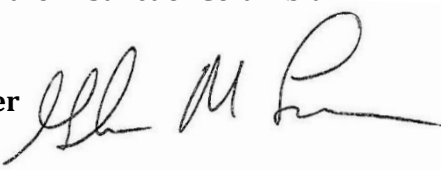
Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



**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 21, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act of 2022

**REFERENCE:** Bill 24-93, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 3, 2022

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**Conclusion**

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

**Background**

Arbitration is a method of alternative dispute resolution in which the parties choose a neutral third party to resolve their disputed issue rather than going to court. The bill creates<sup>1</sup> a statutory scheme for the arbitration of family law disputes including how to interpret arbitration agreements, select an arbitrator, grant or recognize arbitration awards, address protective orders against a party involved in arbitration, and appeal arbitration decisions. Family law disputes typically include disagreements about marital property, spousal support, child custody, and child support. During an arbitration, a neutral third party, the arbitrator, hears arguments from the parties, evaluates evidence, and makes a decision on their dispute.

The bill prohibits an arbitrator from granting a divorce, terminating parental rights, granting an adoption or guardianship of a child or incapacitated person, or determining the status of a child in need of protection.

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<sup>1</sup> By adding a new chapter, Chapter 56, to Title 16 of the District of Columbia Official Code.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 24-93, "Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act of 2022," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 3, 2022

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Establishing a statutory scheme for the arbitration of family law disputes does not have a cost to the District. Arbitration proceedings occur in private and outside of the purview of the District Government. No additional resources are required to implement the bill.