

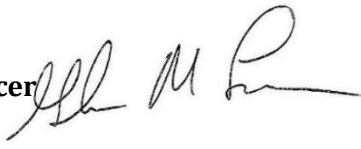
Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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 14, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Wastewater System Regulation Amendment Act of 2022

**REFERENCE:** Bill 24-932, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 27, 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**

The District restricts the types of materials that can be discharged into the District's wastewater systems to ensure the District can properly treat wastewater.<sup>1</sup> The District prohibits materials such as pollutants, ones that react harmfully at different temperatures, specific heated substances, medical waste, and substances that could obstruct the flow of wastewater, including any solids greater than one inch in length. The bill maintains these prohibitions, but gives DC Water the flexibility to reduce the one-inch solids maximum length through rulemaking.

The bill also removes a requirement that cooling waters<sup>2</sup> can only be discharged into a storm or combined sewer. This allows cooling waters to be discharged into the sanitary sewer system.

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<sup>1</sup> Wastewater System Regulation Amendment Act of 1985, effective March 12, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-95; D.C. Official Code § 8-105.06).

<sup>2</sup> Cooling water is wastewater from a heat transfer system such as air conditioning, cooling, condensation, or refrigeration.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 24-932, "Wastewater System Regulation Amendment Act of 2022," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 27, 2022

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill's provision to give DC Water more flexibility to regulate the size of potential discharged materials is expected to reduce maintenance costs related to blockages in the wastewater system. Companies that discharge cooling waters currently must be permitted and will continue to need a permit to discharge in the sanitary sewer system. DC Water will charge permit fees to adequately cover the costs of treating cooling waters in the sanitary sewer system.