

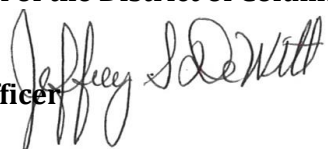
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeff DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Jeff DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: October 6, 2014

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “New Columbia Statehood Initiative and Omnibus Boards and Commissions Reform Amendment Act of 2014”

REFERENCE: Bill 20-71 – Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 6, 2014

This fiscal impact statement incorporates revisions to the Committee Print provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 6, 2014, and replaces the fiscal impact statement issued on March 13, 2014.

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2015 through FY 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill eliminates thirty-one District of Columbia Boards and Commissions that were deemed not active or not serving a useful purpose by the Mayor’s Office of Boards and Committees. Six of the eliminated boards¹ will serve as Advisory Committees to the Board of Medicine, under the control of the Department of Health. The agency appeal functions of two of the eliminated commissions will be transferred to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)². The list of the eliminated boards can be found in the appendix to this fiscal impact statement.

The bill establishes two independent agencies: the Office of Statehood Delegation (OSD), and the New Columbia Statehood Commission (NCSC), and eliminates the following statehood related

¹ The boards on Acupuncture, Anesthesiologist Assistants, Naturopathic Medicine, Physician Assistants, Polysomnography, and Surgical Assistants are reconstituted under the Board of Medicine by the bill.

² The District of Columbia Small and Local Business Opportunity Commission and the Occupational Safety and Health Commission will have their agency appeals functions transferred to OAH.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "New Columbia Statehood Initiative and Omnibus Boards and Commissions Reform Amendment Act of 2014," Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 6, 2014.

commissions: the Statehood Commission, the Statehood Compact Commission, District of Columbia Statehood Delegation Fund Commission, and the 51st State Commission. The purpose of the OSD will be to provide support to the Statehood Delegation in promoting statehood and voting rights for the citizens of the District of Columbia. It will have an Executive Director devoted solely to OSD. The NCSC will solicit funding and promote statehood initiatives. It will have five Commissioners consisting of the Mayor, the Chairman of the Council, the U.S. Representative for the District, and the two U.S. Senators for the District. The bill requires NCSC to meet semi-annually.

The bill establishes the New Columbia Statehood Fund, a non-lapsing fund which can be funded with appropriations and contributions from public and private sources. It must be used to support the Statehood Delegation, the Commission and efforts to promote statehood. Funds disbursed to the Statehood Delegation must be disbursed in equal proportion to each member of the Delegation.

Lastly, some modifications are made to the way certain commissions are organized, including: the District of Columbia Law Review Commission, the Board of Review for Anti-Deficiency Violations, and the Gas Station Advisory Board.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2015 through FY 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

There is \$225,800 budgeted in FY 2015 under the Statehood Initiatives Agency (Agency Code AR0). The Committee of the Whole staff indicates that funding would be used to pay the salary of the OSD Executive Director, and any remaining funding would support the New Columbia Statehood Fund.

As many of these Boards and Commissions were already defunct in practice, there is no budget impact due to their elimination. The six active Commissions being reconstituted under the Department of Health (DOH) will be able to operate as they have without any budget impact. DOH personnel are already administratively supporting these Commissions, so additional resources are not required.

Also, the agency appeals functions being transferred to OAH will not require additional resources. The District of Columbia Small and Local Business Opportunity Commission and the Occupational Safety and Health Commission have not held any appeal hearings the last three fiscal years, and only three appeal requests have been made in the last three years. As no change in this trend is expected, OAH does not require any additional resources to take on this function. Should a significant increase in hearing requests occur, it is possible that OAH may require additional resources in the future, but the need is not expected at this time.

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Appendix- Boards and Commissions eliminated by the bill

- Advisory Board of Vocational Education and Skills Training
- Advisory Committee on Acupuncture
- Advisory Committee on Anesthesiologist Assistants
- Advisory Committee on Naturopathic Medicine
- Advisory Committee on Physician Assistants
- Advisory Committee on Polysomnography
- Advisory Committee on Surgical Assistants
- Board of Trustees of the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund
- Choice in Drug Treatment Advisory Commission
- Citizen Advisory Committee to the Soil and Water Conservation District
- College Savings Program Advisory Board
- Comprehensive Homicide Elimination Strategy Task Force
- District of Columbia Cable Television Advisory Committee
- District of Columbia Securities Advisory Committee
- District of Columbia Small and Local Business Opportunity Commission
- District of Columbia Unemployment Compensation Board
- Environmental Planning Commission
- Housing Authority Advisory Committee
- Library Enhancement Task Force
- Make a Difference Selection Committee
- Notary Public Board of Review
- Occupational Safety and Health Commission
- Public School Modernization Advisory Committee
- Recreation Assistance Board
- Security Officer Advisory Commission
- Technology Opportunity Development Task Force
- Tenant Advisory Council
- Statehood Commission
- Statehood Compact Commission
- District of Columbia Statehood Delegation Fund Commission
- 51st State Commission