




Chairman Phil Mendelson



Councilmember Trayon White



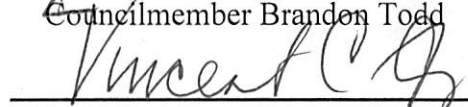
Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Brandon Todd



Councilmember Brianne Nadeau



Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



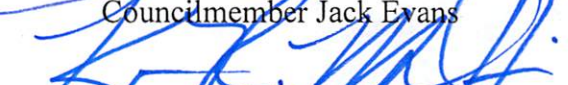
Councilmember Elissa Silverman



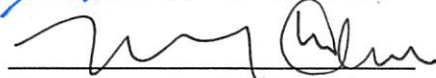
Councilmember Jack Evans



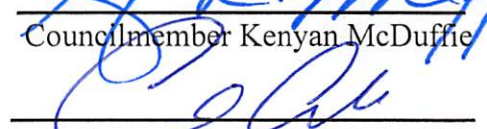
Councilmember Robert White



Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie



Councilmember Mary Cheh



Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember David Grosso

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To establish a Commission on Poverty in the District of Columbia that is directed toward addressing the needs and interests of persons in poverty; To evaluate existing and subsequent anti poverty programs in the District in order to determine their effectiveness and make continuing recommendations to strengthen and enhance the educational, economic, health and housing status of persons in or near poverty.

BE IT ENACTED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this act may be cited as the "Commission on Poverty in the District of Columbia Establishment Act of 2019".

1           Sec. 2. Establishment and Implementation

2           (a) The Mayor shall establish the Commission on Poverty in the District of Columbia  
3 that is directed toward meeting the needs and interests of persons in poverty, with the specific  
4 goal of reducing poverty. This Commission shall evaluate existing and subsequent anti-poverty  
5 initiatives in the District and throughout the country to determine their effectiveness and make  
6 comprehensive and continuing recommendations to strengthen and enhance the educational,  
7 economic, health, and housing status of persons in poverty.

8           (b) The Commission shall be composed of 13 members who are appointed by the Mayor  
9 with the advice and consent of the Council; all members shall be residents of the District of  
10 Columbia. Five of the ward members shall be either in poverty, as defined by current federal  
11 guidelines, or have been in poverty within the last 3 years. One person shall come from each of  
12 the 8 Wards. To qualify for membership on the Commission from one of the 8 Wards, the  
13 members shall have been a resident of the Ward he or she is representing on the Commission for  
14 a minimum of one year, and must remain in the Ward he or she is representing for the duration of  
15 his or her term. The 5 remaining members shall have been residents of the District for at least 3  
16 years prior to appointment, and shall have experience in the area of public policy or programs  
17 related to the particular interests, needs, and concerns of persons in poverty.

18           (c) Members of the Commission shall serve terms of 3 years, however, the initial  
19 appointments shall be as follows: 4 members shall be appointed for 3 years; 4 shall be appointed  
20 for a term of 2 years; and 3 for a one year term; any subsequent re-appoint of a member shall be  
21 for a term of 3 years.

22           (d) Whenever a vacancy occurs on the Commission, the Mayor, with the advice and  
23 consent of the Council, shall, within 90 calendar days of such vacancy, appoint a successor to fill

1 the unexpired portion of the term. If within 60 calendar days of submission (excluding Council  
2 recess) of a nomination for the Commission, the Council fails to act, the nomination shall be  
3 deemed approved.

4 (e) The Commission shall meet at least 9 times annually, and shall develop its own  
5 operating rules, not less than 4 of the Commission's meetings shall be held in areas of the  
6 District with high concentrations of poverty; a quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting  
7 members.

8 (f) The Commission shall elect a Chairperson from among its members.

9 (g) All members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, except expenses  
10 incurred by the Commission as a whole, or by individual members when duly authorized by the  
11 Chairperson, shall become an obligation against appropriated District and federal funds  
12 designated for that purpose.

13 (h) The Commission shall have at least 3 paid staff persons, who must reside in the  
14 District, one of which must be or have been in poverty at least 3 years prior to appointment. The  
15 Mayor's Office shall provide information and technical assistance as required to meet the  
16 mandate of the Commission.

17 (i) The functions of the Commission shall be to:

18 (1) Serve as an advocate for persons in poverty in the District of Columbia;

19 (2) Review and submit to the Mayor and the Council an annual report that  
20 includes the needs of persons in poverty in the District of Columbia;

21 (3) Conduct studies, review progress of programs and agencies engaged in  
22 addressing poverty and develop or recommend action which addresses the reduction of poverty  
23 in the following areas:

- 1 (A) Poverty based on race, class, and bias;
- 2 (B) Public and private employment practices;
- 3 (C) Cooperation with other agencies concerned with programs and  
4 activities pertaining to poverty;
- 5 (D) Conduct or participate in hearings or other forums to determine the  
6 views of those in poverty and other members other public or matters affecting the health, safety,  
7 and welfare of those in poverty in the District of Columbia;
- 8 (E) Review and comment on proposed District legislation and budget  
9 submissions, which address poverty, regulations and policies and programs and make policy  
10 recommendations on issues affecting the health and welfare of those in poverty;
- 11 (F) Request and receive information and data necessary to aid the Commission in  
12 the discharge of its responsibilities;
- 13 (G) Apply for and receive grants to fund its program activities;
- 14 (H) Accept private gifts and donations to carry out the purposes of this act; and
- 15 (I) Provide an annual report to the Mayor and Council on activities,  
16 recommendations, and accomplishments from the previous year.
- 17 (j) The commission shall:
- 18 (1) Appoint an executive director who shall be the chief administrative officer of  
19 the Commission. The Executive Director shall report regularly the Commission on staff  
20 activities. The Executive Director shall have such staff as is approved in the District of Columbia  
21 budget and Federal and private grants.
- 22 (2) Establish rules and procedures for the conduct of its business, including the  
23 election of officers other than the Chairperson, as it deems necessary.

1           Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

2           The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
3 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
4 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

5           Sec. 4. Effective date.

6           This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
7 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
8 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
9 24, 1973, (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
10 Columbia Register.