


Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

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A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend, on a temporary basis, the Food Production and Urban Gardens Program Act of 1986 to clarify the soil testing requirements for the Urban Farming Land Lease program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Urban Farming Land Lease Temporary Amendment Act of 2019”.

Sec. 2. Section 3a of the Food Production and Urban Gardens Program Act of 1986, effective April 30, 2015 (D.C. Law 20-248; D.C. Official Code § 48-402.01) is amended as follows:

(a) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase “Department to” and inserting the phrase “District to” in its place.

(b) Subsection (b) is amended by striking the phrase “the Office” and inserting the phrase “the Department of General Services and the Office” in its place.

(c) Subsection (d)(1) is amended by striking the word “Department” and inserting the word “District” in its place.

(d) A new subsection (d-1) is added to read as follows:

“(d-1) The Department may waive the requirements in subsection (d)(2) and (3) of this section when the lessee does not grow produce in the site soil of the leased property but instead

34 uses, for example, raised beds, greenhouses, or hydroponic towers, provided that the lease
35 agreement includes a provision stating that the lessee will not plant in or use the site soil.”

36 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

37 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact
38 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
39 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

40 Sec. 4. Effective date.

41 (a) This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by
42 the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
43 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24,
44 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
45 Columbia Register.

46 (b) This act shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect.