



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING**  
**1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004**

**CHRISTINA HENDERSON**  
Councilmember, At-Large

**Committee Member**  
Government Operations and Facilities  
Health  
Labor and Workforce Development  
Transportation and the Environment

**Statement of Introduction on the Commission on Public Compensation Establishment  
Amendment Act of 2022**

Today, along with Councilmembers Brianne K. Nadeau, Mary M. Cheh, Vincent C. Gray, Kenyan R. McDuffie, Anita Bonds, and Janeese Lewis George, I am introducing the “Commission on Public Compensation Establishment Amendment Act of 2022.” This legislation would amend the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 to establish a Commission on Public Compensation to review and make recommendations on the compensation and stipend levels for the members of Council of the District Columbia, the Mayor, the Attorney General, the members of the State Board of Education, and several public commissions and boards.

The compensation levels for the District’s elected officials, boards, and commissions are established by statute and are reviewed and adjusted on an ad hoc basis. Although the DC Council passed legislation in 2006 to establish an Advisory Council to look at the compensation levels for the Mayor and Council, based on review of the records, it was never active. And the last time the District attempted to engage in a comprehensive study of the compensation and stipend levels of the District’s boards and commissions was in 2002. It is time we get this right and really engage in this conversation. If we want to continue to be able to recruit great people to serve in roles on important boards like the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board or the Public Employee Relations Board, we should ensure individuals are being appropriately compensated for their work. Many states including Maryland, Delaware, Hawaii, New Jersey, Missouri, Oregon, and Washington use some type of compensation commissions to inform the salaries set for elected and judicial officials.

Currently, there are [21 boards and commissions](#) in the District where members receive either compensation or a stipend for their work. However, some have argued that others like Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, which are elected, should be included among that group. Part of the charge of this Commission on Public Compensation will be to consider this and recommend to the Council an appropriate stipend level, if any. The Commission is structured to work over the course of a year and provide a report of recommendations to the Council and Mayor in time for recommendations to be considered and incorporated into the Fiscal Year 2025 (effective October 1, 2024) budget and financial plan.

I look forward to working with my colleagues as we continue to establish healthy good government practices in the District of Columbia.

1 Brianne K. Nadeau

2 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

Christina Henderson

Councilmember Christina Henderson

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4 Mary M. Cheh

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6 Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

Vincent C. Gray

Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

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8 Kenyan R. McDuffie

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10 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

Anita Bonds

Councilmember Anita Bonds

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12 Janeese Lewis George

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14 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

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22 AN ACT

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26 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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30 To amend the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 to  
31 strike the Mayor and Council Compensation Advisory Commission and establish in its  
32 place a Commission on Public Compensation to review and make recommendations on  
33 the compensation and stipend levels for the members of Council of the District Columbia,  
34 the Mayor, the Attorney General, the members of the State Board of Education, and  
35 several public commissions and boards.

36  
37 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
38 act may be cited as the "Commission on Public Compensation Establishment Amendment Act of  
39 2022".

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41 Sec. 2. The District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of  
42 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-601.01 *et seq.*) is

43 amended by striking Subchapter XI-A (D.C. Official Code § 1-611.51 *et seq.*) and inserting the  
44 following in its place:

45 “TITLE XI-A”

46 “COMMISSION ON PUBLIC COMPENSATION

47 “Sec. 1151. Commission on Public Compensation Establishment.

48 “There shall be a Commission on Public Compensation (“Commission”) to review and  
49 make recommendations on the compensation and stipend levels for the members of Council of  
50 the District of Columbia (“Council”), the Mayor, the Attorney General, the members of the State  
51 Board of Education, and the following public commissions and boards:

52 “(1) Advisory Neighborhood Commission;

53 “(2) Alcoholic Beverage Control Board;

54 “(3) Board of Elections;

55 “(4) Board of Ethics and Government Accountability;

56 “(5) Board of Zoning Adjustment;

57 “(6) Contract Appeals Board;

58 “(7) Concealed Pistol Licensing Review Board;

59 “(8) District of Columbia Retirement Board;

60 “(9) Higher Education Licensure Commission;

61 “(10) Historic Preservation Review Board;

62 “(11) Housing Authority Board of Commissioners;

63 “(12) Office of Employee Appeals;

64 “(13) Police and Firefighter’s Retirement and Relief Board;

65 “(14) Public Charter School Board;

- 66           “(15) Public Employee Relations Board;
- 67           “(16) Public Service Commission;
- 68           “(17) Real Property Tax Appeals Commission;
- 69           “(18) Rental Housing Commission;
- 70           “(19) Washington Metrorail Safety Commission; and
- 71           “(20) Zoning Commission.

72           “Sec. 1152. Commission Membership.

73           “(a) The Commission shall consist of 11 voting members. Seven members shall be  
74 appointed by the Council and four members shall be appointed by the Mayor. The Chairman of  
75 the Council shall appoint one of the seven members appointed by the Council to serve as the  
76 chairperson. The Council and the Mayor should consider geographic diversity when making  
77 appointments.

78           “(b) No member of the Commission shall be or have an immediate family member that  
79 is:

80                   “(1) A current elected official in the District;

81                   “(2) A current member of the public commissions and boards which are under  
82 review pursuant to section 2 of this Act;

83                   “(3) A current employee of the District government; or

84                   “(4) A current employee or Board member of a District of Columbia public  
85 charter school.

86           “(c) No Commissioner shall have any past due taxes, special assessments, or other  
87 charges owed to the District.

88           “(d) Each member of the Commission shall self-attest to the Board of Ethics and  
89 Government Accountability that they have no active business before any of the public  
90 commissions and boards which are under review pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

91           “(e) The Commission shall organize within 15 days after the appointment of its members  
92 and shall select vice chairperson and secretary from among its members.

93           “(f) Vacancies in the membership shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
94 appointments.

95           “(g) The appointments shall expire upon the submission of a report to the Council and the  
96 Mayor. Beginning in 2026, new appointments to the Commission shall be made by December 1  
97 of that year and every fourth calendar year thereafter.

98           “(h) The office of the Chairman of the Council shall provide administrative support to the  
99 Commission as needed.

100           “Sec. 1153. Functions.

101           “(a) The Commission shall review the compensation and stipend levels of the members  
102 of Council, the Mayor, the Attorney General, the members of the State Board of Education, and  
103 the public commissions and boards outlined in section 2 of this Act, and shall submit a report to  
104 the Council and the Mayor with proposed recommendations, if any, concerning changes to the  
105 amount of respective compensation or stipend levels.

106           “(b) In reviewing these compensation and stipend levels, the Commission shall consider:

107                   “(1) The responsibilities of each office, board, or commission;

108                   “(2) The number of hours per week required to perform the responsibilities of  
109 each office, board, or commission;

110                   “(3) Comparable positions in the public and private sectors within and outside of

111 the District;

112 “(4) The current state of the District and national economies;

113 “(5) Projections of future economic growth or decline; and

114 “(6) Past, and projections of future, cost of living increases.

115 “(c)(1) The Commission shall submit its first report with proposed recommendations, if  
116 any, on or before December 1, 2023, and then on or before December 1 of every fourth calendar  
117 year thereafter.

118 “(2) The report from the Commission shall include, but not be limited to, the  
119 following components:

120 “(A) A description of the Commission’s activities;

121 “(B) Recommended compensation or stipend level changes, if any, for  
122 each elected office and public commission and board outlined in Section 2 of this Act;

123 “(C) Reasoning for the recommendations; and

124 “(D) Any other material and recommendations that the Commission  
125 deems relevant to the scope of its work.

126 “(d) Before submitting the report as required by subsection (c) and after giving  
127 appropriate public notice, the Commission shall hold at minimum four public meeting sessions  
128 and at minimum one public hearing to receive feedback from the public. The hearing shall be  
129 recorded and offer opportunity for testimony to be submitted online. All minutes and agendas  
130 shall be published online on the Council website.

131 “(e) The Commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the  
132 services of employees of any District agency, board, or commission as it may require to execute  
133 the requirements of this Act.”.

134           Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

135           The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact  
136 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved  
137 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-307.47a).

138           Sec. 4. Effective date.

139           This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
140 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
141 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
142 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
143 Columbia Register.