



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

April 11, 2023

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

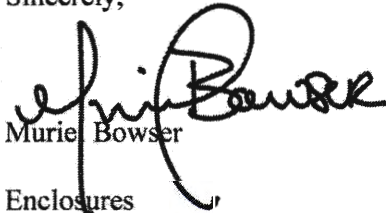
Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Enclosed for the Council of the District of Columbia's consideration and enactment, please find the "Child and Family Services Agency Investigation Completion Amendment Act of 2023". The legislation, if enacted, will extend the timeframe for completing abuse and neglect investigations from 30 to 45 days, unless the allegation involves a child fatality, sex trafficking, or care in a foster home, group home, or licensed day care facility. In these cases, the deadline would be extended to 60 days.

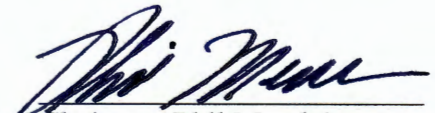
Abuse and neglect investigations are currently required to be completed within 30 days. However, the investigation process has changed considerably over the years with social workers gathering more information but the timeframes for gathering information and engaging with children, families and other necessary contacts has not changed. Certain investigations such as those involving child fatalities, sex trafficking, and reports of abuse or neglect in institutional settings require even longer-term engagement and service provisions. Extending the timeframe will improve the overall quality of investigations by ensuring social workers have the time to collect necessary information and provide services to children and families.

Through this legislation, the District can continue to serve children and families. I urge Council to enact the "Child and Family Services Agency Investigation Completion Amendment Act of 2023".

Sincerely,


Muriel Bowser

Enclosures


Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

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6 A BILL
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10 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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14 To amend the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act to require an investigation of alleged
15 child abuse and neglect be completed within 45 days and to require that an investigation
16 involving a report of a child fatality, sex trafficking, or abuse or neglect occurring in an
17 institutional setting be completed within 60 days.
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
20 act may be cited as the “Child and Family Services Agency Investigation Completion
21 Amendment Act of 2023”.

22 Sec. 2. Section 106(a) of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977,
23 effective September 23, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-22; D.C. Official Code § 4-1301.06(a)) is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 “(a) The full investigation shall be completed no more than 45 days after the receipt of
26 the first notice of the suspected abuse or neglect; except, that the full investigation shall be
27 completed no more than 60 days after the receipt of the first notice of the suspected abuse or
28 neglect if the investigation involves:

29 “(1) A child fatality;

30 “(2) Abuse or neglect in a foster home, group home, or licensed day care facility;

31 “(3) Sex trafficking or severe form of trafficking in persons, as those terms are
32 defined in section 103(12) and (11)(A) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000,
33 approved January 9, 2019 (132 Stat. 5503; 22 U.S.C. § 7102(12) and (11)(A));

34 “(4) A commercial sex act, as that term is defined in section 101(4) of the
35 Prohibition Against Human Trafficking Amendment Act of 2010, effective October 23, 2010
36 (D.C. Law 18-239; D.C. Official Code § 22-1831(4)); or

37 “(5) Sex trafficking of children, as described in section 104 of the Prohibition
38 Against Human Trafficking Amendment Act of 2010, effective October 23, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-
39 239; D.C. Official Code § 22-1834).”.

40 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

44 Sec. 4. Effective date.

45 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
46 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as
47 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
48 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
49 Columbia Register.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

BRIAN L. SCHWALB
ATTORNEY GENERAL



PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL
ATTORNEY-CLIENT COMMUNICATION

LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tommy Wells
Director
Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs

FROM: Megan D. Browder
Deputy Attorney General
Legal Counsel Division

DATE: March 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Legal Sufficiency Review of Draft Legislation, the “Child and Family Services Agency Investigation Completion Amendment Act of 2023” (AD-23-114)

This is to Certify that this Office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed legislation and has found it to be legally sufficient. If you have questions regarding this certification, please do not hesitate to contact me at 724-5524.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan D. Browder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

Megan D. Browder

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



Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

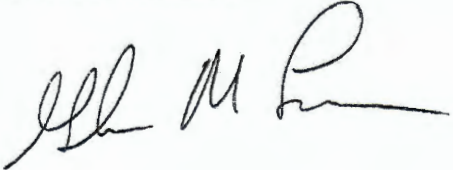
TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: September 19, 2022

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement - Child and Family Services Agency
Investigation Completion Amendment Act of 2022

REFERENCE: Draft bill as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on September
12, 2022



Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) has a deadline of 30 days to complete an investigation of alleged child abuse or neglect. The bill would extend the deadline to 45 days, unless the allegation involves a child fatality, sex trafficking, or care in a foster home, group home, or licensed day care facility. In these cases, the deadline would be extended to 60 days.

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 will allow CFSA the flexibility to gather additional information that may not currently be available within the 30-day timeframe. The agency can absorb any additional work required by extending its investigations.