

A RESOLUTION

23-591

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 10, 2020

To declare the existence of an emergency, with respect to the need to establish an Office of Racial Equity to coordinate the District’s efforts to achieve racial equity and to require the Office to establish a Racial Equity Advisory Board to advise it and to serve as a liaison to the public, to establish a Commission on Racial Equity, Social Justice, and Economic Inclusion to advise the Council, to state the sense of the Council that it should include in its rules for Council Period 24 the establishment of a Racial Equity Program; to amend the Office of Human Rights Establishment Act of 1999 to require the Office of Human Rights, in coordination with the Department of Human Resources and the Office of Racial Equity, to provide racial equity training for District employees and District boards and commissions; and to amend Chapter 3 of Title 47 of the District of Columbia Official Code to require the Office of Racial Equity to coordinate with the Office of the City Administrator to design and implement racial equity tools to aid in eliminating racial disparities and to require the Mayor, beginning in Fiscal Year 2022, to include racial equity-related performance measures in the development of an agency’s annual performance plans and an evaluation of the use of racial equity tools in the annual performance accountability reports.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Racial Equity Achieves Results (REACH) Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to enact the provisions of the Racial Equity Achieves Results (REACH) Amendment Act of 2020, passed on 2nd reading on November 10, 2020 (Enrolled version of Bill 23-38) (“REACH Act”), given that funding for the legislation has been appropriated through the Fiscal Year 2021 budget that started on October 1, 2020.

(b) The REACH Act is currently under review by the Council. It was passed by the Council on first reading on October 20, 2020 and is scheduled for second reading on November 10, 2020.

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(c) To ensure that the positions necessary to support the REACH Act can be created at the Office of the City Administrator and the Council, it is necessary to enact the provisions of the REACH Act sooner than they otherwise will become effective.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances, making it necessary that the Racial Equity Achieves Results (REACH) Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.