



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

**CHRISTINA HENDERSON**  
Councilmember, At-Large  
Chairperson, Committee on Health

**Committee Member**  
Hospital and Health Equity  
Judiciary and Public Safety  
Transportation and the Environment

**Statement of Introduction on the Commission on Public Compensation Establishment  
Amendment Act of 2023  
January 13, 2023**

Today, along with Councilmembers Janeese Lewis George, Kenyan McDuffie, Zachary Parker, Vincent C. Gray, Brooke Pinto, Brianne K. Nadeau, and Matthew Frumin, I am proud to introduce the “Commission on Public Compensation Establishment Amendment Act of 2023.” 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 2026 (effective October 1, 2025) budget and financial plan.

I am very glad this bill had a hearing during Council Period 24. We heard from ANC commissioners about the necessity of this Commission and the positive impact it would have on



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



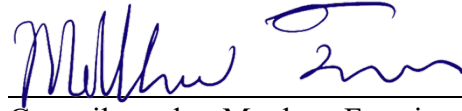
Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie

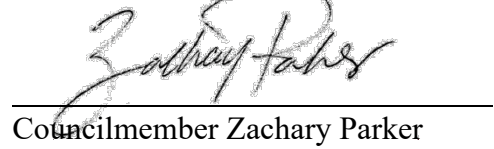


Councilmember Christina Henderson

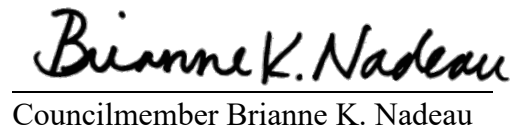
  
Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

  
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

  
Councilmember Matthew Frumin

  
Councilmember Zachary Parker

  
Councilmember Brooke Pinto

  
Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

AN ACT

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 to strike the Mayor and Council Compensation Advisory Commission and establish in its place 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.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Commission on Public Compensation Establishment Amendment Act of 2023”.

Sec. 2. The District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-601.01 *et seq.*) is amended by striking Subchapter XI-A (D.C. Official Code § 1-611.51 *et seq.*) and inserting the following in its place:

“TITLE XI-A”

“COMMISSION ON PUBLIC COMPENSATION

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

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

47                   “(1) Advisory Neighborhood Commission;

48                   “(2) Alcoholic Beverage Control Board;

49                   “(3) Board of Elections;

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

51                   “(5) Board of Zoning Adjustment;

52                   “(6) Contract Appeals Board;

53                   “(7) Concealed Pistol Licensing Review Board;

54                   “(8) District of Columbia Retirement Board;

55                   “(9) Higher Education Licensure Commission;

56                   “(10) Historic Preservation Review Board;

57                   “(11) Housing Authority Board of Commissioners;

58                   “(12) Office of Employee Appeals;

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

60                   “(14) Public Charter School Board;

61                   “(15) Public Employee Relations Board;

62                   “(16) Public Service Commission;

63                   “(17) Real Property Tax Appeals Commission;

64                   “(18) Rental Housing Commission;

65                   “(19) Washington Metrorail Safety Commission; and

66                   “(20) Zoning Commission.

67                   “Sec. 1152. Commission Membership.

68                   “(a) The Commission shall consist of 11 voting members. Seven members shall be  
69 appointed by the Council and four members shall be appointed by the Mayor. The Chairman of  
70 the Council shall appoint one of the seven members appointed by the Council to serve as the  
71 chairperson. The Council and the Mayor should consider geographic diversity when making  
72 appointments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

90           “(g) The appointments shall expire upon the submission of a report to the Council and the  
91 Mayor. Beginning in 2027, new appointments to the Commission shall be made by December 1  
92 of that year and every fourth calendar year thereafter.

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

95           “Sec. 1153. Functions.

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

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

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

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

105                   “(3) Comparable positions in the public and private sectors within and outside of  
106 the District;

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

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

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

110           “(c)(1) The Commission shall submit its first report with proposed recommendations, if  
111 any, on or before December 1, 2024, and then on or before December 1 of every fourth calendar  
112 year thereafter.

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

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

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

118                       “(C) Reasoning for the recommendations; and

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

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

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

129           Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

133           Sec. 4. Effective date.

134           This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
135 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
136 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
137 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
138 Columbia Register.