



**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**  
**Entertainment Establishment Employee Safety Amendment Act of 2024**  
**September 16, 2024**

Today, I am proud to introduce the Entertainment Establishment Employee Safety Amendment Act of 2024 along with Councilmembers Brooke Pinto and Matthew Frumin. This legislation would exempt Class C and D alcohol license holders from being required to accept cash as a form of payment for goods or services. Class C license holders are establishments such as restaurants, hotels, taverns, nightclubs, and other entertainment venues, allowing them to serve spirits, beer, and wine. Class D licenses cover the same establishments but restrict service to beer and wine only.

The Cashless Retailers Prohibition Act, passed in 2020 and funded in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, prohibited retail establishments from discriminating against cash as a form of payment. However, due to public safety concerns, a provision was included in the Secure DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2024 to temporarily pause implementation of this law. This pause is set to expire on January 1, 2025, at which the cashless retailer prohibition will go into effect.

Many businesses, particularly those that sell alcohol, are concerned for their employees' safety and have shared multiple stories about successful and attempted robberies and burglaries. Businesses that are cashless are not at risk of robbery in the same way as businesses with cash on hand. By exempting the requirement to accept cash payments, this legislation will allow Class C and D alcohol license holders the option to operate as cashless establishments if they feel it is necessary for the safety of their employees and patrons. The primary reason establishments choose to avoid cash payments is to reduce the risk of robbery and burglary, followed by the availability of non-cash payment options and to reduce the risk of internal theft. It is important to note that while this bill grants flexibility, all establishments have the option to accept cash as a form of payment.

I look forward to continue working with my Council colleagues to balance the safety of workers in these establishments and ensuring cash remains a payment option in most businesses.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35



Councilmember Brooke Pinto



Councilmember Christina Henderson



Councilmember Matthew Frumin

A BILL

---

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

---

To amend Section 28-5404 of the District of Columbia Official Code to allow retail establishments with a valid on-premises Class C and Class D retailer license to refuse cash as a form of payment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Entertainment Establishment Employee Safety Amendment Act of 2024.”

Sec. 2. Section 28-5404 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as follows:

(a) Paragraph (3)(c) is amended by striking the phrase “; or” and inserting a semicolon in its place.

(b) Paragraph (4) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phase “; or” in its place.

(c) A new paragraph (5) is added to read as follows:

“(5) To any retail establishment with a valid on-premises Class C or Class D retailer license.”.

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

39           Sec. 4. Effective date.

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