

# D.C. Legislative Oversight Committee - AISGW

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Prepared by: American Management Corporation – Brett O. Greene, President & CEO;  
Tiffini Greene, Executive Vice President

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## *DC Legislative Update*

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- Council Period 22 officially began January 2, 2017 and will run for two years ending on January 2, 2019.
- Councilmembers will continue to introduce legislative measures and Council committees will continue to schedule hearings on previously introduced measures that have not completed the legislative process.

### **B22-0657 - School Sunscreen Safety Amendment Act of 2018**

*As introduced, the bill excludes sunscreen from being considered medication under the Student Access to Treatment Act of 2007 and allows students to possess and self-administer sunscreen without a medication action plan. It also requires training for school agents and employees on administering sunscreen to students among other things.*

- **Introduction Date:** Jan 9, 2018
- **Introduced by:** Cheh
- **Co-Sponsor(s):** Allen, Evans, Todd, Bonds, Gray, Nadeau, R. White, Grosso, Silverman, and T. White
- **Committee Referral:** Committee on Education with comments from the Committee on Health

**Status:** A public hearing has not been scheduled. The bill remains under Council Review.

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## *DCPS Update*

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**Dr. Amanda Alexander** will serve as interim Chancellor replacing Antoine Wilson who resigned on Tuesday, February 20, 2018. **Ahna Smith** will serve as interim Deputy Mayor for Education until a permanent replacement is found. Jennifer Niles resigned Friday, February 16, 2018.

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## *FY2019 DC Budget Process and Timeline*

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March 21, 2018, is the date established by the Council by which the Mayor shall submit the FY 2019 proposed budget. Listed below is essentially the timetable and roadmap to the passage of the FY 2019 budget, which covers the period from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

- **February 7 to March 9:** Agency Performance Oversight Hearings
  - **February 21:** DCPS (public witnesses only)
  - **February 27:** Office of the State Superintendent
  - **March 1:** DCPS (government witnesses only)
- **March 21:** Mayor submits the budget
- **March 23:** Mayor briefs the Council on the budget
- **March 26 to April 26:** Agency Budget Oversight Hearings
  - **March 28:** DCPS (public witnesses only)
  - **March 29:** Deputy Mayor for Education
  - **April 19:** DCPS (government witnesses only)
  - **April 24:** Office of the State Superintendent
- **April 27:** Committee of the Whole hearing on the budget
- **May 2 to 4:** Committee budget markups
  - **May 4:** Committee on Education
- **May 8:** Day-long Council work session on the budget
- **May 15:** Council's first of two budget votes
- **May 29:** Council's second of two budget votes

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### *Universal Paid Leave Update*

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In 2016, D.C. Council enacted the Universal Paid Leave Act (Law 21-264). Eligible participants will have access to:

Type of Leave	Number of Weeks	Requirements
Parental Leave	8 Weeks	Leave must be taken within one year of the qualifying event.
Family Caregiver Leave	6 Weeks	Leave must be taken within one year of the diagnosis of a family member's "serious health condition."
Paid Medical (Self Care) Leave	2 Weeks	Leave must be taken within a year of the employee being diagnosed with the serious health condition.

#### **Key Details / Timeline:**

- **Program Funding:** 0.62% per employee payroll tax to be paid by all qualifying employers into the Family and Medical Leave Fund beginning no later than **July 1, 2019**.
- **Wage Replacement:** benefits will not be greater than 90 percent of employee's wages, capped at \$1,000 per week.
- **Participant Pool – Who qualifies?** A part-time or full-time employee who works for a qualifying employer in DC.

- **Excluded from Participating in the Program:** Federal and DC government employees; DC residents who work for employers outside of the District.
- **PROJECTED Implementation Timeframe:**
  - **October 2018:** The Mayor shall submit a report to the Council about the financial management, claim management, operation and use of the Fund and the paid-leave program.
  - **July 2019:** Collection of the employee payroll tax
  - **January 2020:** 18 months to develop software + 12 months to collect the tax to build a reserve
  - **July 2020:** Eligible employees may begin requesting leave

The UPLA law establishes a Family and Medical Leave Fund, to be managed by a newly established Office of Paid Family Leave (OPFL) housed within the DC Department of Employee Services. In addition to collecting the revenue from the tax, OPFL will also be responsible for administering the benefits to eligible participants. Although the law has been enacted, implementation of the program is underway, and the mayor is expected to release implementing regulations later this year, the exact financial impact of the law for covered employers remains unclear.

The District of Columbia's CFO estimates that creating a new agency and the new system could cost up to \$80 million. The Council set aside \$40 million in the FY18 budget to begin the work. When fully implemented—approximately three years after the work of setting up the agency begins—the program benefits and administration will cost an estimated \$260 million annually.

D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson announced he is dropping efforts to overhaul the city's paid family leave law. As a result, the implementation of the current law will proceed. What remains unresolved is how to ensure that the city's fund remains solvent, and how to ensure that workers are not made more vulnerable. The five alternative bills "don't do it" according to the Chair and he won't be moving them.