

AN ACT

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To amend the Smoke Detector Act of 1978 to require the Mayor to develop an annual program to test and install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and batteries in District residences, and to educate District residents on the use of detectors, to require the Mayor to issue an annual report on the program's progress, and to authorize the Mayor to accept gifts and grants of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, batteries, and funds to assist persons who cannot afford smoke detectors or batteries.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detector Program Amendment Act of 2008".

Sec. 2. The Smoke Detector Act of 1978 , effective June 20, 1978 (D.C. Law 2-81; D.C. Official Code § 6-751.01 *et seq.*), is amended by adding new sections 6a, 6b, and 6c to read as follows:

“Sec. 6a. Smoke and carbon monoxide detector and battery program.

“(a) The Mayor shall develop a program to test and install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and batteries in District residences, and to educate District residents on the use of the detectors. The program shall be re-developed annually. The program may include:

“(1) Door-to-door outreach;

“(2) A public information campaign, including printed and mass media materials, or community events in each ward of the District;

“(3) The provision or installation of a smoke or combination smoke/carbon monoxide detector in a person's residence; and

“(4) Detector installation by personnel of the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, other District personnel, or such other persons who are willing to provide this service at no cost on behalf of the District.

“(b) The program shall specify that any person who agrees to receive and install a smoke or combination smoke/carbon monoxide detector shall permit a representative of the Fire

and Emergency Medical Services Department to inspect the installation of the unit to confirm that the installation occurred and was done properly.

“(c) Any resident or property owner participating in the program shall indemnify and hold harmless the District, its officers, employees, agents, and assigns for the provision and installation of the smoke or combination smoke/carbon monoxide detectors or batteries.

“Sec. 6b. Annual report on smoke and carbon monoxide detector and battery program.

“(a)(1) No later than December 31st of each year, the Mayor shall provide to the Council an annual report on the smoke and carbon monoxide detector and battery program for the previous fiscal year.

“(2) The annual report on the smoke and carbon monoxide detector and battery program may be included in an annual report of the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department if the annual report is issued by December 31st following the end of the fiscal year.

“(b) The annual report shall include the following information, pertaining to the fiscal year:

“(1) Number of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors installed;

“(2) Amount of monetary donations received;

“(3) Amount of in-kind donations received;

“(4) Number of hours contributed by Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department personnel in developing and implementing this program;

“(5) Statistics on the number of fires in the District, including information on the number of fires with no smoke detectors or less than fully functional smoke detectors; and

“(6) Additional information regarding the effectiveness of the program.

“Sec. 6c. Acceptance of gifts and grants of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, batteries, and funds; authority to purchase detectors and batteries.

“Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Mayor may accept gifts and grants of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, batteries, and funds to conduct a program to provide detectors and batteries free of charge to residents of the District, and to install or arrange for the installation of detectors free of charge to residents. The Mayor may use donated funds to purchase or contract to purchase smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and batteries to conduct the program. The funding source for such contracts shall include any funds annually appropriated for this purpose, any funds accepted under this section, and block grant and other grant monies as available.”.

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the October 21, 2008 fiscal impact statement of the Chief Financial Officer as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

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Sec. 4. Effective date.

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

Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia

Mayor
District of Columbia