

Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: November 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Initiative Prohibiting the Force-Feeding of Birds

REFERENCE: Draft Initiative as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 13, 2025

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2026 through fiscal year 2029 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed initiative. The initiative's implementation will cost \$314,000 over the four-year financial plan period.

Background

The proposed initiative prohibits the artificial fattening of a bird's liver and the importation, distribution, sale, offer for sale, or receipt of any fattened bird liver product in the District of Columbia. The initiative directs the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) to ensure compliance with the prohibition. Under the initiative, DOEE can subpoena any relevant records, receive complaints, and issue civil violations. The initiative establishes a civil penalty of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 per day for a discovered violation and authorizes DOEE to direct the suspension or revocation of a business' operating license for repeat violations in a twelve-month period. The prohibition begins July 1, 2027.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2026 through fiscal year 2029 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed initiative. DOEE has experience inspecting food service businesses and retail establishments under existing non-food product bans such as Styrofoam containers, straws, and plastic shopping bags. The initiative is expected to expand the number and type of

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FIS: "Initiative Prohibiting the Force-Feeding of Birds," Draft Initiative as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 13, 2025

establishments that DOEE must inspect. DOEE must also publicize the law and educate relevant businesses on the prohibition. DOEE does not currently and is unlikely to inspect kitchen or other back-of-house operations at any establishment under the initiative. As it does with other prohibited activities, DOEE will also work with the Department of Health (DOH) to get referrals of potential violations. DOEE requires an additional food establishment inspector to receive and investigate complaints, proactively inspect new establishments, coordinate with DOH and other external entities, and issue and adjudicate violations beginning in fiscal year 2027. The inspector will cost \$89,000 in fiscal year 2027 and \$274,000 over the four-year financial plan period. DOEE will also need to educate businesses and the public on the prohibition before the prohibition is effectuated. This will cost \$20,000 in fiscal year 2027 and \$10,000 each year thereafter.

Initiative Prohibiting the Force-Feeding of Birds Implementation Costs Fiscal Year 2026 – Fiscal Year 2029					
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	Total
Staff	\$0	\$89,000	\$91,000	\$94,000	\$274,000
Education	\$0	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$40,000
Total	\$0	\$109,000	\$101,000	\$104,000	\$314,000

The Office of Revenue Analysis is not aware of any bird farms or bird feeding operations in the District and has not included any potential costs related to the inspection or enforcement of live animal establishments.