


Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To establish a Veterans Emergency Food Program through the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans and their families who are in a short-term crisis with access to food.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Veterans Emergency Food Program Act of 2018".

Sec. 2. Veterans Emergency Food Program.

(a) There is established within the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs ("MOVA") the Veterans Emergency Food Program ("VEFP") to provide veterans and their families who are in a short-term crisis with access to food.

(b) MOVA shall:

(1) Establish an Emergency Food Pantry ("EFP") that is located in a District owned or operated facility.

(2) Ensure that all veterans have access to the EFP through the program.

(3) Allow veterans to visit the EFP once per three months.

(4) Provide for delivery of food to disabled veterans.

1 (c) To be eligible for the emergency food pantry provided for in this section, a veteran
2 shall:

3 (1) Be domiciled in the District of Columbia; and

4 (2) Be referred by a Veterans Administration ("VA") mental health provider,
5 social worker or clinical dietitian.

6 (d) Disabled veterans must present a disability letter from the Veteran's Administration

7
8 (e) MOVA shall confer with other agencies, organizations, and individuals that it
9 consider necessary to meet the objectives of this act.

10 Sec. 3. Veterans Emergency Food Program Fund.

11 (a) There is established the Veterans Emergency Food Program Fund ("Fund"), which
12 shall be administered by MOVA in accordance subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

13 (b) Revenue from the following sources shall be deposited into the Fund:

14 (1) \$100,000 appropriated by the District;

15 (2) Grants;

16 (3) Donations from the public;

17 (4) Donations from private entities; and

18 (5) Funds provided through a sponsorship agreement.

19 (c) Money in the Fund shall be used to implement, operate, and administer VEFP,
20 including:

21 (1) Establishing the program;

22 (2) Purchasing food for the EFP;

23 (3) Handling and delivery costs;

24 (4) Appropriate overhead or administrative expenses related to the VEFP and

1 the Fund.

2 (d) Money in the Fund shall not be used for any other purpose other than for the purposes
3 provided in this act.

4 (e)(1) The money deposited into the Fund, and interested earned, shall not revert to the
5 General Fund of the District of Columbia at the end of a fiscal year, or at any other time.

6 (2) The Fund shall be subject to a yearly audit by the Office of the D.C. Auditor
7 and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

8 (3) Subject to authorization in an approved budget and financial plan, any funds
9 appropriated in the Fund shall be continually available without regard to fiscal year limitation.

10 Sec. 4. Reporting requirements.

11 MOVA shall submit a report on the operations of the VEPF to the Mayor and the Council
12 regarding the performance of the Fund for the prior fiscal year before January 1 each year.

13 Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

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

17 Sec. 6. Effective date.

18 The act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
19 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
20 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
21 24, 1973, (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
22 Columbia Register.