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2 Councilmember Mary Cheh
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6 Councilmember Charles Allen
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8 A BILL
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11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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14 To establish a Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency to assess the impacts of the
15 changing climate and potential impacts of adverse events; assess the District's
16 ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change; assess the status of the District's
17 ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, and adapt to adverse events;
18 and produce a report and an action plan on its findings.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That
21 this act may be cited as the "Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency Establishment
22 Act of 2015".

23 Sec. 2. Establishment of the Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency.

24 (a) There is established a Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency
25 ("Commission") to assess the impacts of the changing climate and potential impacts of
26 adverse events; assess the District's ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change; assess
27 the status of the District's ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, and adapt
28 to adverse events; and to prepare comprehensive recommendations to the Council and the
29 Mayor to address identified vulnerabilities.

30 (b) The Commission shall have 16 voting members, who shall be appointed as
31 follows:

32 (1)(A) Eight voting members shall be appointed by the Mayor.

33 (B) The Mayor's 8 initial appointments shall include 4 members
34 appointed to 3-year terms and 4 members appointed to 2-year terms. All subsequent
35 appointments by the Mayor shall be for 3-year terms.

36 (2) (A) Eight voting members appointed by the Council.

37 (B) The Council's 8 initial appointments shall include 4 members
38 appointed to 3-year terms and 4 members appointed to 2-year terms. All subsequent
39 appointments by the Council shall be for 3-year terms.

40 (3) The members shall have expertise in at least one of the following areas:

41 (A) Environmental science;

42 (B) Environmental justice;

43 (C) Public health;

44 (D) Economic development;

45 (E) Energy;

46 (F) Insurance;

47 (G) Emergency preparedness;

48 (H) Transportation; or

49 (I) Natural resources.

50 (4) The Mayor shall appoint the Chairperson of the Commission from among
51 its public members.

52 (c) The Commission shall have the following nonvoting members:

53 (1) The Director of the District Department of the Environment or his or her
54 designee;

55 (2) The Director of the District Department of Transportation or his or her
56 designee;

- 57 (3) The Director of the Office of Planning or his or her designee;
58 (4) The Director of the Department of Health or his or her designee;
59 (5) The Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development or his or her
60 designee;
61 (6) The Department of General Services;
62 (7) The Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management
63 Agency or his or her designee; and
64 (8) The General Manager of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer
65 Authority or his or her designee.

66 (d) The Commission shall invite federal partners, including the General Services
67 Administration and the National Parks Service, to participate in its discussions and
68 planning.

69 (e) All vacancies on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the
70 initial appointment is made.

71 (f) All members of the Commission shall be appointed within 60 days after the
72 effective date of this act.

73 Sec. 3. Commission duties and functions.

74 (a) The Commission shall:

75 (1) Identify resiliency approaches being pursued by other municipalities,
76 states, regions, and the federal government;

77 (2) Conduct vulnerability assessments for the current resilience of critical
78 infrastructure and systems, including energy production, food and water security, the built
79 environment, natural resources, emergency preparedness and response, transportation,
80 housing, economic risk management, and public health;

81 (3) Develop goals to address vulnerabilities and increase resiliency;

(4) Evaluate the expected impacts of climate change on critical infrastructure and systems, natural resources, public health, and economy; and

(5) Develop recommendations for pro-active solutions to mitigate or minimize the expected impacts of climate change, including how agencies should integrate mitigation and adaptation strategies when planning and designing policies, programs, and projects.

(b) In the course of its work, the Commission shall incorporate climate adaptation plans initiated by District agencies, including the Department of the Environment and the Department of Transportation.

(c) The Commission shall engage the public in its assessments, evaluations, and recommendations.

(d) Within 14 months of the effective date of this act, the Commission shall submit an interim report to the Council and the Mayor that:

(1) Details the work completed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and

(2) Includes preliminary recommendations for mitigation of climate change impacts and resiliency vulnerabilities.

(e) Within 24 months of the effective date of this act, the Commission shall submit a final report that includes:

(1) A report of the Commission's work and findings;

(2) A comprehensive action plan on resiliency and climate change mitigation;

(3) Legislative or regulatory changes necessary to implement the action plan;

and

(4) A timeline for reconvening to continue the Commission's work and develop updates to the report and action plan.

Sec. 4. Commission procedure and powers.

(a) The Commission shall meet at least once a quarter.

(b) The Chairperson of the Commission, or his or her designee from among the members of the Commission, shall convene all Commission meetings.

(c) A majority of the voting members appointed to the Commission at any given time shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of official business. Official actions of the Commission shall be taken by majority vote of the voting members present at the meeting.

(d) The Commission may use space and supplies owned or rented by the District government and use staff detailed by the Mayor for purposes consistent with this act as the Commission may determine.

(e) The Commission may form workgroups to consider specific subtopics, and may invite outside participation, including the public and subject matter experts.

Sec. 5. Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency Fund.

(a) There is established as a special fund the Climate Change and Resiliency Fund ("Fund"), which shall be administered by the Department of the Environment on behalf of the Commission in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

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

(1) Appropriations;

(2) Private gifts or donations; and

(3) Federal grants, when awarded.

(c) Money in the Fund shall be used to fulfill the functions and duties of the Commission, as set forth in section 3.

(d)(1) The money deposited into the Fund, and interest earned, shall not revert to the unrestricted fund balance of the General Fund of the District of Columbia at the end of a fiscal year.

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

Sec. 6. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report 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)).

Sec. 7. 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.