

A RESOLUTION

20-328

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 5, 2013

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 to establish mandatory controlled substance and alcohol testing and criminal background checks and a background investigation program for applicants, appointees, employees, volunteers, and contractual workers of the Consolidated Forensic Sciences Laboratory.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Controlled Substance, Alcohol Testing, Criminal Background Check and Background Investigation Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2013”.

Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to amend the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-601.01 *et. seq.*), to establish a mandatory controlled substance and alcohol testing program, criminal background check, and background investigation program for applicants, appointees, employees, volunteers, and contractual workers who have a duty station at the Consolidated Forensic Sciences Laboratory ("CFL").

(b) The CFL officially opened on October 1, 2012, and will serve as the central location for several of the District’s public health and safety lab operations, such as the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the Department of Forensic Sciences ("DFS"), and divisions under the Metropolitan Police Department that include the Firearms and Fingerprint Examination Division, DNA Laboratory, and the Forensic Sciences Services Division. The Department of Forensic Sciences Establishment Act of 2011, effective August 17, 2011 (D.C. Law 19-18; D.C. Official Code § 5-1501.01 *et. seq.*)("Act"), requires that DFS provide security and protection for evidence and samples in its custody. To ensure compliance with the Act, a mandatory controlled substance and alcohol testing program, criminal background check, and background investigation program for applicants, appointees, employees, volunteers, and contractual workers who have a duty station at the CFL is necessary.

(c) A similar emergency measure, D.C. Act 19-582, was adopted by the Council on December 4, 2012, along with an identical temporary measure, D.C. Act 19-616, which is set to expire on December 1, 2013. A permanent version of the legislation was introduced last Council

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period. This emergency measure is being noticed in order to prevent these provisions from expiring.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Controlled Substance, Alcohol Testing, Criminal Background Check and Background Investigation Emergency Amendment Act of 2013 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.