

**A RESOLUTION**

**Proposed  
Resolution  
20-821**

**See Emergency  
D.C. Act 20-364  
20 DCStat 3355**

*To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011 to require that Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners and candidates for public office certify that they have filed and paid income and property taxes, diligently safeguarded the assets of the taxpayers and the District, reported known illegal activity, not accepted a bribe, not directly or indirectly received government funds through illegal or improper means, not raised or received funds in violation of federal or District law, and not received or been given anything of value based on any understanding that their official actions or judgment or vote would be influenced; and to remove the requirement that Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners file a confidential disclosure of financial interest.*

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2014”.

**Board of Ethics  
and  
Government  
Accountability  
Establishment  
and  
Comprehensive  
Ethics Reform  
Emergency  
Declaration  
Resolution of  
2014**

Sec. 2. (a) There exists an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011 to maintain existing law and to require public financial disclosure certifications be submitted to the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (“BEGA”) by Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners and candidates for public office.

(b) On September 17, 2013, the Council passed Bill 20-455, the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Emergency Amendment of 2013. This emergency legislation required Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners to file an annual public financial disclosure certification instead of a confidential financial disclosure with BEGA. Bill 20-455 expired on January 2, 2014.

(c) The Council passed identical temporary legislation, Bill 20-456, which became effective on December 13, 2013. This legislation will expire on July 25, 2014. The Committee on Government Operations is scheduled to hold a public hearing on Bill 20-507, the permanent version of the legislation, on June 9, 2014, and will mark up the bill soon thereafter.

(d) It is therefore necessary to pass emergency legislation while the permanent bill is awaiting a markup.

(e) This emergency legislation maintains existing law by requiring that Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners file a public financial disclosure certification instead of the confidential disclosure required by BEGA’s enabling legislation. This approach recognizes that the role of volunteer Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners is fundamentally different than the role of Councilmembers or high ranking officials, as they do not vote or affect policy or

decision-making in the same, direct way as do other public officials, but it still requires transparency through a public certification.

(f) The emergency legislation additionally requires that candidates for nomination for election, or election, to public office, file the same public financial disclosure certification as Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners. Following the April 1, 2014, primary election, unsuccessful candidates were still required to file the more intrusive public financial disclosure statement required of sitting public officials. This legislation would exempt candidates who did not file with BEGA by the May 15, 2014, deadline, but requires that candidates file a public financial disclosure certification going forward.

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 Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Emergency Amendment of 2014 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.