



Chairman Phil Mendelson

AMENDMENT #2

B24-838, "Restoring Trust and Credibility to Forensic Sciences Amendment Act of 2022"

(Committee Print)

December 6, 2022

Amendment:

Strike new subsection (f), Section 2(r)(5), on lines 421 through 425 from the bill.

Rationale: In the Committee Print for Bill 24-838, the Stakeholder Council is given the authority to issue a resolution recommending the termination of the Director or Chief Forensic Sciences Officer to the Mayor or to issue a written finding of good cause to support the termination of the Director or Chief Forensic Sciences Officer. The Stakeholder Council, established by D.C. Code § 5-1501.13, is meant to provide a forum for clients of the Department of Forensic Services to discuss issues related to the Department's provision of services, such as timeliness and prioritization. Granting this body the authority to issue a resolution calling for the Director's termination or the newly created position of Chief Forensic Science Officer is not in line with the original purpose of the Council. Additionally, the membership of the Stakeholder Council includes agencies that are not under the authority of the Mayor or Council. Even though the federal agencies represented on the Stakeholder Council account for only a handful of members, these agencies should not be able to influence a formal recommendation to terminate the Director or Chief Forensic Sciences Officer. As such, this amendment strikes language which grants the Stakeholder Council that authority from the bill.