

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to require the Mayor to establish a pilot program through which a close relative of a child may be eligible to receive subsidy payments for the care and custody of a child, to establish eligibility requirements for the subsidy, to provide that there is no entitlement to a subsidy and the payment of any subsidy is subject to the availability or appropriations, to authorize the Mayor to issue rules to implement provisions of the act, and to require the Mayor to issue a report to Council evaluating the program.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy Pilot Program Establishment Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. (a) The Grandparent Caregivers Program was first established in 2006 to help provide stability to “grandfamilies”, families in which grandparents are taking care of their grandkids, with financial support.

(b) Testimony provided during the performance oversight proceedings for the Child and Family Services Agency (“CFSA”) demonstrated that a broader population of kin caregivers exists in the District. One study from 2017 found that 9,000 District children under 18 years of age were living in households led by relative caregivers that were not grandparents.

1 (c) Furthermore, witnesses testified that many of these close relative caregivers
2 require immediate financial assistance to ensure that youth are afforded stability and are
3 not removed from a home with a close kinship relationship.

4 (d) The Fiscal Year 2020 Local Budget Act of 2019, approved on second reading,
5 includes funding for the establishment of a close relative caregiver subsidy pilot program
6 (“pilot program”), to become available on October 1, 2010, the first day of Fiscal Year
7 2020.

8 (e) Emergency legislation is necessary to ensure that CFSA is able to begin
9 planning for the administration of the pilot programming, including hiring of one full
10 time equivalent, during summer recess so that the program will be operational as soon as
11 possible after the beginning of Fiscal Year 2020.

12 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
13 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
14 Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy Pilot Program Establishment Emergency Amendment
15 Act of 2019 be adopted after a single reading.

16 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.