

**Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004**

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OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF THE
COMMITTEE

**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY**

ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING ON

**BILL 22-0222, THE "SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS' RIGHTS
AMENDMENT ACT OF 2017"**

**BILL 22-0255, THE "CHILD NEGLECT AND SEX TRAFFICKING
AMENDMENT ACT OF 2017"**

**BILL 22-0266, THE "VICTIM SERVICES OMNIBUS
AMENDMENT ACT OF 2017"**

**Thursday, June 22, 2017, 10:30 a.m.
Room 412, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004**

On Thursday, June 22, 2017, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, will hold a public hearing on Bill 22-0222, the "Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2017"; Bill 22-0255, the "Child Neglect and Sex Trafficking Amendment Act of 2017"; and Bill 22-0266, the "Victim Services Omnibus Amendment Act of 2017". The hearing will take place in Room 412 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., at 10:30 a.m.

The stated purpose of Bill 22-0222, the "Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2017", is to amend the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Act of 2014 to expand the right to a sexual assault victim advocate to persons aged 12 years and older; to allow the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants to certify sexual assault victim advocates; to expand the right of a victim to have a sexual assault victim advocate present during interviews with prosecutors; to clarify the right of a victim to have a sexual assault victim advocate present during interactions with law enforcement and prosecutors; to provide a victim with the right to receive information about their case from prosecutors; to clarify the process for handling and disposing of sexual assault forensic examination kits and physical evidence recovery kits; to clarify the information victims have the right to receive from the Metropolitan Police Department; to provide a right to confidentiality for communications between a victim and sexual assault victim advocate; to clarify the mandatory

reporting requirements for sexual assault victim advocates; to clarify the timelines for processing of sexual assault forensic examination kits by the Department of Forensic Sciences; to establish a review committee to receive and investigate complaints from sexual assault victims; to create an annual report by the Sexual Assault Response Team; to improve data sharing among Sexual Assault Response Team members; to clarify the rights of victims when being provided emergency care; to expand the definition of sexual contact to include the removal of a person's clothing without their consent; and to clarify the right of a victim to compensation under existing insurance policies.

The stated purpose of Bill 22-0255, the "Child Neglect and Sex Trafficking Amendment Act of 2017", is to amend the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977 to broaden the definition of a neglected child to include a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of sex trafficking; and to amend section 16-2301 of the District of Columbia Official Code to include sex trafficking or severe forms of sex trafficking as a form of sexual abuse.

The stated purpose of Bill 22-0266, the "Victim Services Omnibus Amendment Act of 2017", is to amend Title 16 of the District of Columbia Official Code to establish an Address Confidentiality Program administered by the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, to establish a Justice Grants and a Violence Fatality Review Board, to establish a maximum amount for reimbursement for funeral and burial expenses for victims of violent crime, and to add a member to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

The Committee invites the public to testify or to submit written testimony. Anyone wishing to testify at the hearing should contact the Committee via email at judiciary@dccouncil.us or at (202) 727-8275, and provide their name, telephone number, organizational affiliation, and title (if any), by **close of business Friday, June 16**. Representatives of organizations will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for oral testimony, and individuals will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. Witnesses are encouraged to bring **twenty single-sided copies** of their written testimony and, if possible, also submit a copy of their testimony electronically in advance to judiciary@dccouncil.us.

For witnesses who are unable to testify at the hearing, written statements will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted to the Committee at judiciary@dccouncil.us or to Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 5, Washington, D.C. 20004. **The record will close at the end of the business day on July 14.**