

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

**CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING**

on

Bill 24-989, “Educator Background Check Streamlining Amendment Act of 2022”

on

November 2, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

**Chairman’s Website (www.ChairmanMendelson.com/live)
DC Council Website (www.dccouncil.us)**

Council Chairman Phil Mendelson announces a public hearing by the Committee of the Whole on **Bill 24-989, *Educator Background Check Streamlining Amendment Act of 2022***. The hearing will be on **Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.** via Zoom video conference.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony from the government and public witnesses regarding the background check process for educators and volunteers in District of Columbia educational programs and schools. Bill 24-989, the “Educator Background Check Streamlining Amendment Act of 2022” would revise the suitability screening process for individuals applying to work as a teacher or volunteer in schools and educational programs in the District of Columbia. While a typical background check should take around 21 days, teachers, prospective volunteers, community-based organizations, parents, and school leaders are reporting a turnaround time of upwards to 3 months or more. This has impacted schools and programs’ ability to recruit and hire critical staff needs like substitute teachers and tutors. Bill 24-989 seeks to address this.

Those who wish to testify must register at <http://www.ChairmanMendelson.com/testify> by the close of business on Monday, October 31, 2022. **Testimony is limited to four minutes**; less time will be allowed if there are a large number of witnesses. Witnesses who anticipate needing spoken language interpretation, or require sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee office of the need as soon as possible but no later than five business days before the proceeding. We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests, although alternatives may be offered. Requests received in less than five business days may not be fulfilled. If you have additional questions, please email cow@dccouncil.us or contact LeKisha Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor, at (202) 724-8137.

The hearing will be conducted virtually on the Internet utilizing Zoom video conference technology. Testimony should be submitted in writing to cow@dccouncil.us in advance of the hearing. Written testimony will be posted publicly to <http://www.chairmanmendelson.com/testimony>. If you are unable to testify at the hearing, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record. Statements for the record should be submitted to cow@dccouncil.us or left by voicemail by calling (202) 430-6948 (up to 3 minutes which will be transcribed). The record will close at 5:00pm on Wednesday, November 16, 2022.