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Councilmember Anita Bonds

AN ACT

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the District of Columbia Theft and White Collar Crimes Act of 1982 to enhance penalties imposed for certain crimes against election officials.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Election Worker Protection Second Emergency Declaration of 2024”.

Sec. 2. (a) This measure addresses safety concerns faced by the District of Columbia Board of Elections officials and election workers. The measure will provide additional safeguards to election workers and volunteers to help ensure District elections are safe for everyone.

(b) The 2024 elections continued a nationwide trend that saw increasing threats and abuse directed at election officials and volunteer poll workers. As one example, election offices in at least six states around the country reported incidents of receiving suspicious packages. The District of Columbia, as the nation’s capital, faces additional scrutiny during hotly contested

presidential elections. In addition to being targeted in harassing voice mail messages, the District of Columbia Board of Elections reported that someone shattered the outer glass to their office suite. While the presidential election is now complete, District of Columbia election workers could face ongoing threats and harassment related to their duties. Furthermore, protections must be in place if the Board is required to hold any special elections. These protections cannot be allowed to lapse, and we must continue to protect our election workers until permanent legislation can be enacted. This measure will increase the penalties for crimes against election officials and elections workers to deter these crimes and show that the safety of these workers is a priority of our government.

(c) Emergency legislation is therefore necessary to ensure that we deter crimes against our election officials and workers before current protections expire in January.

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 Election Worker Protection Second Emergency Amendment Act of 2024 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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Chairman

Council of the District of Columbia

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Mayor

District of Columbia