

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend, on an emergency basis, the Block Party Act of 2012 to enable residents hosting a musical performance on their property as part of a Porchfest or other distributed musical festival to apply for block party permits.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Porchfest Permitting Emergency Amendment Act of 2026”.

Sec. 2. The Block Party Act of 2012, effective October 23, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-190, D.C. Official Code § 9-631 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 2 (D.C. Official Code § 9-631) is amended by adding a new paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5) “Porchfest” means a distributed neighborhood music festival where musicians perform on a resident’s private property, such as their porch or yard, or any abutting public property, and no fee is charged to participants or attendees.”.

(b) Section 3 (D.C. Official Code § 9-632) is amended by adding a new subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

“(b-1) A District resident may submit a block party application requesting that a street on which they reside be closed for the purpose of holding a porchfest.”.

(c) Section 5(a) (D.C. Official Code § 9-634(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) It is the policy of the District to approve block parties, including porchfests.”.

33 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

34 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact
35 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
36 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

37 Sec. 4. Effective date.

38 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
39 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and shall remain in effect for no longer than
40 90 days, as provided for emergency acts of the Council of the District of Columbia in section
41 412(a) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788;
42 D.C. Official Code § 1-204.12(a)).