

AUGUST 29, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 15791, the Home Rule Act amendments. The bill amends the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act to update it.

H. R. 15791 responds by amending that Act in the following respects:

- (1) The Act provided that positions in the D. C. Manpower Administration would be removed from competitive service whenever any such position became vacant. H. R. 15791 continues those positions in the competitive service, and thus treat all transferred employees alike.
- (2) H. R. 15791 provides for a special election in the case of a vacancy in the position of Chairman of the City Council.
- (3) The bill would change the District of Columbia Government's fiscal year from July first to October first, beginning on October 1, 1976, to conform with the new Federal year.
- (4) It would authorize appropriations of \$70 million (one-fourth of the authorization for fiscal year 1977) to cover the 3-month transition period--July 1, 1976, to September 30, 1976--occasioned by the change in the beginning of the fiscal year 1977 from July 1, 1976, to September 30, 1976.
- (5) It would reduce the time relating to the issuance of general obligation bonds of the D. C. Government by authorizing the Mayor, rather than the D. C. Council, to issue such bonds (after D. C. Council approval) and to reject any bids relating to those bonds.

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- (6) It would authorize the D. C. Council, by regulation, to prohibit conversion of existing multiunit structures in the District into condominiums. The Home Rule Act gives condominium regulatory authority to the D. C. Council effective January 2, 1975. The enrolled bill will give the Council interim authority to deal with what it and the Mayor regard as a pressing problem because of the rapid rate of conversion in the past year.

- (7) It would provide for filling Board of Education vacancies at the next general election rather than at the next election for members of the Board.

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