



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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**Thomas Bill Establishing 51st State Commission Voted Out of Committee**—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr. announced today that the Committee on Aging and Community Affairs voted unanimously to forward Bill 18-177, the “51<sup>st</sup> State Commission Establishment Act of 2009,” to the Council for a full vote.

Bill 18-177, which Councilmember Thomas introduced along with his colleagues Ward 7 Councilmember Yvette Alexander, Chair of the Committee on Aging and Community Affairs, and At-Large Councilmember Michael Brown, calls for the establishment of a 51<sup>st</sup> State Commission to study, research, and promote statehood for the District of Columbia. The bill was co-sponsored by Chairman Gray and Councilmembers Marion Barry, Muriel Bowser, Kwame Brown, David Catania, Mary Cheh, Jim Graham, Phil Mendelson, and Tommy Wells.

Legislation passed in 1980 created a D.C. Statehood Commission, but was repealed in 1994. “I introduced this bill because, with the election of President Barack Obama and the Democrats regaining control of Congress, the timing is right to step up the District’s efforts to push for full representation,” said Councilmember Thomas.

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