

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 19-0160R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Sneed, President Scott, Councilmembers Cohen, Dorsey,  
Middleton, Pinkett, Burnett, Bullock, Clarke, Reisinger, Stokes, Schleifer

Introduced and read first time: August 19, 2019

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of General Services, Office  
of Sustainability, Department of Public Works, Department of Planning, Mayor's Office of  
Innovation, Department of Finance

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Solid Waste Enterprise Fund**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting the Director of the Department of General Services, the Director of  
4 the Office of Sustainability, the Director of the Department of Public Works, the Department  
5 of Public Works' Bureau Head of Solid Waste, the Director of the Mayor's Office of  
6 Innovation, the Director of the Department of Planning, the Director of the Department of  
7 Finance, and the Department of Finance's Budget Director of the Bureau of the Budget and  
8 Management Research to discuss the potential benefits and challenges relating to the creation  
9 of a solid waste enterprise fund.

10 **Recitals**

11 The Baltimore City Charter provides for a variety of continuing, non-lapsing funds that  
12 finance City priorities, such as the Children and Youth Fund and the Special Fund for Fair  
13 Elections. Baltimore City currently covers the cost of sanitation, trash disposal, and future  
14 landfill needs through General Fund taxes. Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Howard, and Prince  
15 George's counties charge a fee for solid waste collection, and Harford County requires residents  
16 to contract on their own for trash collection. In short, the City's General Fund covers these  
17 services, while the general funds of those counties do not. This aspect of the City's revenue  
18 structure compounds the perception of high local property taxes. The "headline" property tax in  
19 the counties would be higher if their general funds covered the trash collection services that the  
20 City General Fund covers. Shifting the costs of trash collection services to an enterprise fund  
21 and reducing the property rate on a dollar-for-dollar basis would allow for a more meaningful tax  
22 rate comparison between the City and these counties. Adopting an enterprise model with charges  
23 comparable to those in Maryland counties could enable a reduction of approximately 15 cents in  
24 Baltimore City's tax rate. An enterprise fund could save money in the General Fund and the  
25 Capital Budget to be used for other priorities. An enterprise fund could also encourage recycling  
26 if waste collection charges were based on the amount of waste that was thrown away. For these  
27 reasons, the City Council is interested in holding an informational hearing to learn more about  
28 creating a solid waste enterprise fund.

29 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City  
30 Council invites the Director of the Department of General Services, the Director of the Office of

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 Sustainability, the Director of the Department of Public Works, the Department of Public Works'  
2 Bureau Head of Solid Waste, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Innovation, the Director of  
3 the Department of Planning, the Director of the Department of Finance, and the Department of  
4 Finance's Budget Director of the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research to discuss the  
5 potential benefits and challenges relating to the creation of a solid waste enterprise fund.

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the  
7 Department of General Services, the Director of the Office of Sustainability, the Director of the  
8 Department of Public Works, the Department of Public Works' Bureau Head of Solid Waste, the  
9 Director of the Mayor's Office of Innovation, the Director of the Department of Planning, the  
10 Director of the Department of Finance, the Department of Finance's Budget Director of the  
11 Bureau of the Budget and Management Research, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City  
12 Council.