

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 07-0245R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Branch, Kraft, Curran, Young, Mitchell, Welch, Harris,
D'Adamo, Spector, Holton
Introduced and adopted: January 22, 2007

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

**1 Informational Hearing – No Child Left Behind Act – Highly
2 Qualified Teachers – Baltimore City Public School System Compliance**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Academic Officer of
4 the Baltimore City Public School System to brief the City Council on the status of the
5 Baltimore City Public School System's compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind
6 Act requirement that, by June 2007, all teachers of core academic subjects in the classroom
7 be highly qualified and on the actions required in June should we fail to comply.

8 Recitals

9 Throughout January 2007, the President of the United States will meet with bicameral and
10 bipartisan members of Congress on the 5th anniversary of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)
11 to urge reauthorization of the measure that was signed into law, in 2002.

12 The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education holds that one of the most important
13 factors in raising student achievement is a highly qualified teacher and that research shows that
14 teacher subject-matter knowledge is greatly associated with student learning. The No Child Left
15 Behind Act requires that, by the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year, all teachers of core
16 academic subjects in the classroom be highly qualified as determined by 3 essential criteria: (1)
17 attaining a bachelor's degree or better in the subject taught; (2) obtaining full state teacher
18 certification; and (3) demonstrating knowledge in the subjects taught.

19 The official progress report indicates that, as of 2006, for the first time all 50 States and the
20 District of Columbia have accountability plans in place as well as reading/language arts and
21 mathematics assessments for grades 3-8, plus one assessment in high school, and that the
22 percentage of classes taught by a highly qualified teacher (HQT) has risen to 91%. Despite this
23 reported progress, the U.S. Department of Education found it necessary to allow states that could
24 demonstrate a good faith effort in a Revised State Plan to defer compliance with the HQT
25 requirement until the end of the 2006-2007 school year. Baltimore City's deadline is June 2007.

26 The 6-point protocol used by the federal Peer Review Committee to evaluate the potential
27 success of a Revised State Plan addressed 6 key issues:

- 28 1. A thorough analysis of the data identifying teachers that do not meet HQT
29 requirements, including trends that the State Plan will address;
- 30 2. Steps local districts will take to help teachers quickly attain HQT status;

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

Council Bill 07-0245R

- 1 3. Technical assistance, programs, and resources the State Education Agency (SEA) will
2 offer to help Local Education Agencies (LEAs) implement their HQT plans;
- 3 4. Action states will take if LEAs do not ensure all teachers of core academic subjects
4 are highly qualified;
- 5 5. The use of an alternative method to ensure that all teachers are highly qualified (i.e.,
6 the state's use of HOUSSE [High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation]
7 procedures); and
- 8 6. Taking steps to ensure that minority students and students from low-income families
9 are not disproportionately taught by inexperienced or unqualified teachers.

10 In the majority of school districts in the State of Maryland, 75% of core academic classes
11 were being taught by highly qualified teachers, while only 46.8% of core academic classes in
12 Baltimore City were being taught by highly qualified teachers when the Revised State Plan was
13 submitted to the Peer Review Committee. While the City Council appreciates the efforts
14 demonstrated by Baltimore City Public School System that led to federal approval of the State's
15 plan, a more thorough knowledge of the particulars of that plan will give added assurance that
16 our schools and our students will not face wholesale teacher transfers in June 2007, as narrowly
17 avoided in the case of Teacher Assistants.

18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the Chief
19 Executive Officer and the Chief Academic Officer of the Baltimore City Public School System
20 are requested to brief the City Council on the status of the Baltimore City Public School
21 System's compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act requirement that, by June 2007,
22 all teachers of core academic subjects in the classroom be highly qualified and on the actions
23 required in June should we fail to comply

24 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
25 Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the Maryland
26 General Assembly, the State Superintendent of Education, the CEO and CAO of Baltimore City
27 Public Schools, the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of State Relations, and the Mayor's
28 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.