


F R O M	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner <i>Oxiris Barbot</i>	Health Department	MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201			
	Subject	Council Bill 11-0671 – Illegal Dumping – Penalties - Enforcement			

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o 409 City Hall

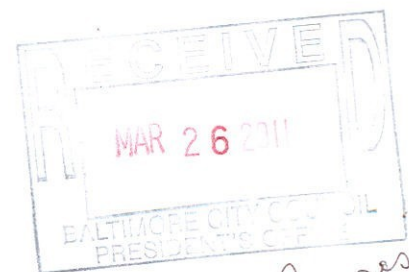
March 14, 2011

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to Council Bill 11-0671. The purpose of the bill is to increase penalties, expand liability, and clarify responsibilities and current language in the law regarding illegal dumping.

The Health Department's primary mission is to promote a healthy Baltimore City by advocating, leading, and providing services of the highest quality in order to promote and protect the health of the residents of Baltimore. Illegal dumping is a public nuisance that diverts land from more productive uses and depresses the value of surrounding land. In addition, it has environmental and health ramifications. The trash and debris from illegal dumping contaminates soil, groundwater, and open bodies of water, which encourages rodent and pest infestation and increases exposure to a variety of infectious diseases that are transmitted by animals and insects. This bill seeks to increase the penalties for such actions, and would strengthen the city's ability to punish offenders, which will further the City's goal of a cleaner and healthier city.

The Health Department supports all efforts to improve the cleanliness of Baltimore City, which in turn supports the agency's effort to improve the health and well-being of its residents. Therefore, we respectfully take no position on council bill 11-0671, but will be participating in the hearing to provide any public health data that may be needed to make an informed decision.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor  
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health  
Olivia Farrow, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health  
Rachel Indek, Legislative Director, Department of Health



*No position*