



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the Public Safety Committee will be responsible for matters concerning public safety, including, but not limited to; emergency preparedness, police services, fire/EMS, & their administrative functions.

**The Honorable Mark Conway
Chair**

PUBLIC HEARING

**Tuesday, April 28, 2025
12:00 PM**

CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS

25-0005

Arson Offender Registry

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Sharon Green Middleton
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Staff: *Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*

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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON SCOTT – MAYOR
ZEKE COHEN - COUNCIL PRESIDENT



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES
NANCY MEAD – DIRECTOR
100 N. HOLIDAY STREET
BALTIMORE MD, 21202

Bill Hearing

Committee: Public Safety Committee

25-0005

Arson Offender Registry – Registration Requirement

Purpose:

FOR the purpose of altering the criteria for registering as an arson offender with the Police Commissioner, and providing for a special effective date.

BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments,
Article 19 – Police Ordinances
Section 61-3(a)
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

REPORTING AGENCIES

Law Dept	Approve for form and sufficiency
Fire Dept	Favorable w/ amendment
Police Dept	Favorable

BACKGROUND

Bill Summary

This bill, if enacted, would amend the registration requirement for those who have been convicted of a malicious burning or arson offense. Currently, those charged with such offenses must register with the Police Commissioner if they have been charged with a subsequent arson or malicious burning offense. This amendment would remove that requirement for a subsequent charge and require offenders, even if they just have the one applicable charge, to register with the Police Commissioner. According to the report from the Law Department, this would bring the requirement in line with the Gun Offender Registry.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Note:

The Police report on this bill indicates that BPD does not foresee any increased cost or impact as a result of this legislation if enacted.

BCFD also does not anticipate any fiscal impact due to this bill.

Information Source(s):

25-0005 1st Reader, Agency Reports

Analysis by: Tony Leva
Analysis Date: April 21, 2025

Direct Inquiries to: 410-396-1091

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0005
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: The Council President
At the request of: The Administration (Mayor's Office of Government Relations)
Cosponsored by: Councilmember Schleifer
Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2025
Assigned to: Public Safety Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Police Department, Fire Department

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Arson Offender Registry – Registration Requirement**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the criteria for registering as an arson offender with the Police
4 Commissioner; and providing for a special effective date.

5 BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments,

6 Article 19 – Police Ordinances
7 Section 61-3(a)
8 Baltimore City Code
9 (Edition 2000)

10 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
11 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

12 **Baltimore City Code**

13 **Article 19. Police Ordinances**

14 **Subtitle 61. Arson Offender Registration**

15 **§ 61-3. Registration – In general.**

16 (a) *Registration required.*

17 An arson or malicious burning offender must register with the [Commissioner if the
18 offender is charged with a subsequent arson or malicious burning offense.]
19 COMMISSIONER.

20 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is
21 enacted.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Baltimore City Council



Land Use & Transportation Committee

25-0005

Arson Offender Registry

Agency Reports



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Erin C. Murphy – Director of Government Relations – Baltimore Police Department
CC	Mayor’s Office of Government Relations
DATE	2/13/25
SUBJECT	25-0005 Arson Offender Registry – Registration Requirement

Position: Favorable

BILL SYNOPSIS

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed Council Bill 25-0005, for the purpose of altering the criteria for registering as an arson offender with the Police Commissioner; and providing for a special effective date.

SUMMARY OF POSITION

The Baltimore Police Department will maintain and monitor the arson offender registry in compliance with City Council Bill 25-0005 and Article 19 – Police Ordinances, Section 61-3(a) of the Baltimore City Code. The Baltimore Police Department will update, monitor and maintain the arson registry. It is the responsibility of the State’s Attorney’s Office to request registration as a part of an offender’s sentence. An offender’s sentence is within the discretion of the trial court.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Baltimore Police Department does not anticipate a fiscal impact if this legislation is enacted.

AMENDMENTS

The Baltimore Police Department has no requested amendments for Council Bill 25-0005.

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
EBONY M. THOMPSON,
CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

January 17, 2025

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 25-0005 – Arson Offender Registry

Dear President Cohen, Vice President Middleton, and Members of the Council:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 25-0005 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would alter the criteria for registering as an arson offender with the Police Commissioner. Specifically, existing City law requires an arson offender to register if the offender is charged with a subsequent arson or malicious burning offense. The bill would alter this requirement to state that “[a]n arson or malicious burning offender must register with the Commissioner.” The bill would take effect on the date it is enacted.

The Arson Offender Registry was enacted by Ordinance 23-254. The propriety of enacting an Arson Offender Registry was established at that time. This amendment requires a person to register as an offender upon a conviction for arson or malicious burning rather than upon a subsequent charge for arson or malicious burning following the initial conviction. This amendment brings the registration requirement for the Arson Offender Registry in line with the registration requirement for the Gun Offender Registry. *See* City Code Art. 19, § 60-3(a).

The Law Department can approve Council Bill 25-0005 for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michele M. Toth".

Michele M. Toth
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson
Ty’lor Schnella
Ethan Hasiuk
Tiffany Maclin
Hilary Ruley
Ashlea Brown



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Chief James Wallace, Baltimore City Fire Chief, Baltimore City Fire Department
CC	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
DATE	February 13, 2025
SUBJECT	25-0005 Arson Offender Registry – Registration Requirement

POSITION: Favorable with amendments

BILL SYNOPSIS

This bill changes the requirement of when a person must register on the Arson Offender Registry with the Police Commission.

SUMMARY OF POSITION

BCFD supports this legislation, with the amendments submitted by the Administration, as such registries may be able to assist in solving more cases, deterring repeat offenders, and preventing property damage and death.

FISCAL IMPACT

This bill will not have a fiscal impact on BCFD.