



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Alice Kennedy, Commissioner, Housing and Community Development
<b>CC</b>	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
<b>DATE</b>	February 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
<b>SUBJECT</b>	25-0003 Historic Preservation – Conservation Districts – Establishment

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**Position: Favorable**



**BILL SYNOPSIS**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 25-0003 Historic Preservation - Conservation Districts - Establishment for the purpose of establishing Conservation Districts; providing a study, proposal, and review process; defining certain terms; and providing for a special effective date.

If enacted, City Council Bill 25-0003 would establish both Conservation Districts and the processes needed for their management. If approved, this Bill would come into effect on the 30th day after its enactment.

**SUMMARY OF POSITION**

At its regular meeting of February 6, 2025, the Planning Commission concurred with the recommendations of its Departmental staff and recommended that City Council Bill 25-0003 be approved by the City Council. The Commission noted in their report that the proposal to create Conservation Districts was in response to many community associations expressing interest in a historic designation that was less stringent in design review requirements than that of a local historic district. The Commission also noted that the establishment of Conservation Districts is a recommendation mentioned within their current Comprehensive Master Plan and that such districts may function as a more efficient and effective way to achieve the goals of many active Urban Renewal Plans.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

DHCD supports the intent of this legislation and believes that the retention and upkeep of buildings given special designations for their historical or architectural significance benefits the

health and stability of our neighborhoods throughout the City. The creation of Conservation Districts could offer a new flexible means to further achieve this end. DHCD does not anticipate an operational or fiscal impact from the passage of this Bill and as this legislation is applicable to the entire City, Conservation Districts may arise within our Impact Investment Areas, Community Development Zones, or Streamlined Code Enforcement Areas.

### ***AMENDMENTS***

DHCD is not requesting any amendments to this Bill.