

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 06-0149R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Mitchell, President Dixon, Councilmembers Young, Harris,
Curran, Reisinger, Clarke, Kraft, D’Adamo, Holton, Welch, Branch
Introduced and adopted: February 27, 2006

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

**In Support of State Legislation – (Senate Bill 714/House Bill 1432) –
Education – Residential Boarding Education Programs – At-Risk Youths**

FOR the purpose of expressing support for State legislation that authorizes the establishment of
boarding schools for at-risk youth statewide; requesting the Honorable Chairs and Members
of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, the Senate Budget and Taxation,
and the House Ways and Means Committees to give Senate Bill 714 and House Bill 1432,
respectively, a favorable report; urging the Honorable Members of the Senate and House
Baltimore City Delegations to the 2006 Maryland General Assembly to secure passage of
this legislation; and respectfully exhorting the Governor to sign the legislation into law.

Recitals

This legislation would authorize the establishment of boarding schools statewide for at-risk
youths as defined by the State Department of Education and who are eligible for free or reduced
price meals; have a record of suspensions, office referrals, or chronic truancy; have failed to
achieve a proficient or advanced level on State assessments in reading or mathematics, or both;
have a referral from a teacher, counselor, social worker, or community-based service
organization; are members of a single parent or non-custodial parent household; their family
income is below the federal poverty guidelines; their family receives temporary cash assistance;
or a member of their family has been incarcerated.

*The Hidden Crisis in the High School Dropout Problems of Young Adults in the U.S.: Recent
Trends in Overall School Dropout Rates and Gender Differences in Dropout Behavior*, prepared
for The Business Roundtable, Washington, D.C., concludes “the high concentration of male
dropouts, in many large central cities should be viewed as the new “social dynamite” of the
twenty-first century. The severe economic and labor market problems of male dropouts, together
with the high incidence of social pathologies among these young dropouts (high rates of arrests,
convictions, incarcerations, and absentee fatherhood, and low rates of marriage and family
stability), should be viewed as a major public policy concern by the nation’s mayors, other city
officials, governors, educators, business, and labor leaders.”

At nearly 50%, Baltimore City has one of the highest dropout rates in the nation. Of the
4,000 students who enter the public school system each year, only about 1,000 of them graduate.
On any given day, more than ½ of the City’s high school students are absent. Of the relative few

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

1 who stay the course and graduate from the zoned high schools, only about 40% attend college.
2 A boarding school, located in their neighborhood, would provide these students with a viable
3 alternative and allow urban families an educational choice that has long been denied.

4 Baltimore City Administration has explored the feasibility of establishing a public charter
5 boarding school with The SEED Foundation, Inc., because of the success of their school in
6 Washington, D.C. The SEED School opened there in 1998, offering an intensive academic and
7 boarding education to 320 urban children in grades 7 through 12. The school offers District
8 students a unique opportunity to achieve academic, economic, and social success. In the 7 years
9 since SEED opened its doors, students, parents, and community members have repeatedly cited
10 the school as an inspiration and a support source for higher achievement, better jobs, and higher
11 levels of education.

12 The SEED model could fulfill a critical need for Baltimore’s children by providing an
13 alternative education for a group of students who are in danger of becoming the “social
14 dynamite” that lights the fires of economic, social, and spiritual destruction.

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
16 Body supports State legislation that authorizes the establishment of boarding schools for at-risk
17 youth statewide; requests the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Senate Education, Health,
18 and Environmental Affairs, the Senate Budget and Taxation, and the House Ways and Means
19 Committees to give Senate Bill 714 and House Bill 1432, respectively, a favorable report; urges
20 the Honorable Members of the Senate and House Baltimore City Delegations to the 2006
21 Maryland General Assembly to secure passage of this legislation; and respectfully exhorts the
22 Governor to sign the legislation into law.

23 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Honorable Chairs of the Senate Education, Health,
24 and Environmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, and the
25 House Ways and Means Committee are requested to include this Resolution in the official bill
26 files on the respective legislation and to include these comments as the committees deliberate on
27 this issue.

28 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the
29 Mayor, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations
30 to the 2006 Maryland General Assembly, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Senate
31 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, the Senate Budget and Taxation, and the House
32 Ways and Means Committees, the Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of State Relations,
33 and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.