

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Deborah F. Moore-Carter, Labor Commissioner <i>D.F.M.C.</i>	<b>CITY of</b> <b>BALTIMORE</b> <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Office of the Labor Commissioner 417 East Fayette Street, Suite 1405		
	SUBJECT	<b>City Council Bill 09-0262</b> <b>Baltimore Benefits Commission – Increase Membership</b>		

**TO**

The Honorable President  
Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and  
Members of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 406, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

DATE: 2/3/2009

***Recommended Position***

The Office of the Labor Commissioner has reviewed and supports City Council Bill 09-0262 which, as proposed, would increase membership on the Baltimore Benefits Commission (hereinafter “the Commission”) from the current 17 member to 21 members. Additional members to the Commission include the Budget Chief, Department of Finance, Chief of Fire Department the President of AFSCME Local 44 and the President of the Baltimore Fire Officer, Local 964.

***Comments and Analysis***

Created by an ordinance, the Commission was established to study and monitor the compensation and other benefits (including health, retirement, life and disability insurance, and other benefits) provided or, for time to time, proposed to be provided by the City to its employees and retirees. Additionally, the Commission was charged with submitting a report on or before June 30 of each year, to the Board of Estimates recommending specific methods to improve communication between administrators and beneficiaries concerning available benefits and proposed changes to them and generally improve the administration of benefits for employees and retirees. In addition to the Mayor or designated representative, President of the City Council or designated representative, ex officio members of the Commission include agency heads, union leaders and active employees, and retirees.

Since certain benefits afforded to employees and retirees are the result of collective bargaining, As Labor Commissioner, I value membership on the commission, I welcome the perspective of the various stake holders including the new members, and I support increasing the membership by the four positions named above.

