



FROM	NAME & TITLE	Eric W. Tiso,  Director of Development Oversight and Project Support	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Planning 8 th Floor, 417 East Fayette Street		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #25-0157 / Private Detention Centers - Citywide Ban		

DATE:

April 3, 2026

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 North Holliday Street

At its regular meeting of April 2, 2026, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #25-0157, for the purpose of establishing a private detention center as a prohibited use Citywide; defining certain terms; making conforming changes; and providing for a special effective date.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report, which recommended approval of City Council Bill #25-0157 and adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #25-0157 be **approved** by the City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact me at eric.tiso@baltimorecity.gov or by phone at 410-396-8358.

attachment

cc: Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office
The Honorable John Bullock, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
Mr. Justin Williams, BMZA
Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administrator
Ms. Stephanie Murdock, DHCD
Ms. Hilary Ruley, Law Dept.
Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC
Mr. Luciano Diaz, DOT
Ms. Nancy Mead, Council Services



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Jon Laria, Chair; Eric Stephenson, Vice Chair

STAFF REPORT



Ren Southard
Acting Director

April 2, 2026

REQUEST: City Council Bill #26-0157 - Private Detention Centers - Citywide Ban
For the purpose of establishing a private detention center as a prohibited use Citywide; defining certain terms; making conforming changes; and providing for a special effective date.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Brandon Kanoy

PETITIONER: Council President Cohen and Councilmembers Parker, Ramos, and Gray

OWNER: N/A

SITE/GENERAL AREA:

Site Conditions: Citywide, Not Applicable

General Area: Citywide, Not Applicable

HISTORY

N/A

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

The 2024 Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Baltimore was enacted by Ordinance #24-426, dated December 2, 2024. This proposed text amendment aligns with the goals of the Comprehensive Master Plan to position Baltimore as a leader in equitable land development to “address systemic and historic inequities across the city.”

ANALYSIS

Background: Private detention facilities are encouraged to cut costs to ensure any private ownership can derive a profit from the operation of the facility. Prohibiting the construction and operation of private facilities removes the profit motive from incarceration. Reducing potential profitability therefore encourages other uses for private capital within the city. Planning finds it prudent to prohibit these uses and allow for more expansive conversations about the best uses of public and private dollars throughout Baltimore City.

Report continues on the following page =>

Equity:

- **Impact:**

The bill prohibits the private operation of detention facilities. This ensures that any operating facilities are required to comply with the maximum ability for public oversight and accountability.

- **Engagement:**

Staff provided notice of Planning Commission discussion of this item citywide via GovDelivery, as well as various regional notices distributed by Community Planners.

- **Internal Operations:**

The proposed legislation does not create significant operational impacts for the Department of Planning.

Recommendation: Approval

Notification: Staff sent notice of this action to subscribers via GovDelivery.



Ren Southard
Acting Director