



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Timothy Keane, Acting Commissioner, Housing and Community Development
CC	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
DATE	April 22, 2026
SUBJECT	26-0157 Private Detention Centers – Citywide Ban

Position: Favorable

BILL SYNOPSIS

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 26-157 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.

If enacted, City Council Bill 26-0157 would add “private prisons” to the list of uses prohibited throughout all zoning districts within Baltimore City. If approved, this Bill will take effect on the date of its enactment.

SUMMARY OF POSITION

DHCD fully supports the intent of City Council Bill 26-157 Private Detention Centers – Citywide Ban. Should this legislation be enacted there is unlikely to be a significant impact to the agency’s enforcement responsibilities. If a private prison were to be built within the City, initial contact would most likely occur at the filing of permits for construction. Those applications would then be denied by Zoning, given the prohibited use. If, for any reason, a private prison was built without any of the required permits to do so, DHCD’s Special Investigation Unit (SIU) zoning inspectors would be called upon to investigate, as they would for any other potential zoning violation.

FISCAL IMPACT

As drafted, this Bill would have minimal fiscal or administrative impact on DHCD.

AMENDMENTS

DHCD does not seek any amendments to this Bill at this time.