

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 23-0438
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Ramos

At the request of: The Administration (Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs)

Introduced and read first time: October 16, 2023

Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Office of the Mayor, Office of Equity and Civil Rights, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs; defining certain terms,
4 providing for the establishment of the Office; articulating the purpose of the Office;
5 establishing the powers and duties of the Office; providing for the administration, staffing,
6 and budget of the Office; and requiring the Office to submit a certain annual report.

7 BY adding to

8 Article 1 - Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies
9 Sections 54-1 to 54-7 to be under the new subtitle designation
10 "Subtitle 54. Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs"
11 Baltimore City Code
12 (Edition 2000)

13 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
14 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

15 **Baltimore City Code**

16 **Article 1. Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies**

17 **SUBTITLE 54. MAYOR'S OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS**

18 **§ 54-1. DEFINITIONS.**

19 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

20 IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

21 (B) *DIRECTOR.*

22 "DIRECTOR" MEANS THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 (C) *IMMIGRANT*.

2 “IMMIGRANT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL:

3 (1) WHO IS A RESIDENT OF BALTIMORE CITY; AND

4 (2) WHOSE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IS A COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES.

5 (D) *OFFICE*.

6 “OFFICE” MEANS THE MAYOR’S OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS.

7 **§ 54-2. OFFICE ESTABLISHED.**

8 THERE IS AN OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS IN THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR.

9 **§ 54-3. PURPOSE.**

10 THE PURPOSE OF THE OFFICE IS TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
11 AND INTEGRATION OF BALTIMORE CITY’S IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES.

12 **§ 54-4. OFFICE – POWERS AND DUTIES.**

13 THE OFFICE SHALL HAVE THE POWER AND DUTY TO PERFORM THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS:

14 (1) ADVISE THE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, AND CITY AGENCIES ON WAYS TO ENHANCE AND
15 IMPROVE ACCESS TO CITY SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRANTS;

16 (2) ADVISE THE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, AND CITY AGENCIES ON WAYS TO STRENGTHEN
17 OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMMIGRANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CIVIC LIFE OF THE CITY;

18 (3) IMPLEMENT AND COORDINATE CITY POLICIES REGARDING ISSUES AFFECTING
19 IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES;

20 (4) ADVOCATE FOR EQUAL TREATMENT OF IMMIGRANTS AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CITY
21 SERVICES;

22 (5) REVIEW PROPOSED LEGISLATION REFERRED TO THE OFFICE BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND
23 ASSESS ITS IMPACT ON THE ECONOMIC, PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND
24 INTELLECTUAL WELFARE OF IMMIGRANTS;

25 (6) IMPROVE THE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO IMMIGRANTS BY ADVOCATING FOR CHANGES
26 IN:

27 (I) PUBLIC POLICY;

28 (II) SERVICE DELIVERY; AND

29 (III) FUNDING;

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1 (7) DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, AND COORDINATE POLICIES THAT FACILITATE CITY AGENCIES'
2 COMPLIANCE WITH ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LANGUAGE ACCESS LAWS;

3 (8) ADVANCE THE OFFICE'S MISSION BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

4 (I) CITY AGENCIES;

5 (II) CITY BOARDS;

6 (III) CITY COMMISSIONS;

7 (IV) COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS; AND

8 (V) THE PRIVATE SECTOR;

9 (9) SERVE AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE CITY AND ITS IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES;

10 (10) ESTABLISH AND STAFF COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUPS TO PROVIDE STRATEGIC
11 GUIDANCE AND MONITORING OF INITIATIVES RELEVANT TO THE PURPOSE OF THE
12 OFFICE;

13 (11) SOLICIT COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
14 OFFICE, INCLUDING CONSULTATIONS WITH CITY AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND
15 COMMISSIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES RELEVANT TO
16 IMMIGRANTS; AND

17 (12) PERFORM OTHER DUTIES AS REQUIRED BY THE MAYOR.

18 **§ 54-5. DIRECTOR.**

19 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

20 THERE IS A DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
21 ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT OF THE OFFICE.

22 (B) *APPOINTMENT.*

23 THE DIRECTOR IS APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE IV, § 6 OF
24 THE CITY CHARTER.

25 (C) *SALARY.*

26 THE DIRECTOR SHALL RECEIVE SUCH SALARY AS MAY BE PROVIDED IN THE ORDINANCE OF
27 ESTIMATES.

28 **§ 54-6. STAFF AND BUDGET.**

29 (A) *STAFF.*

30 THE OFFICE MAY EMPLOY STAFF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES.

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1 (B) *BUDGET.*

2 THE OFFICE MAY EXPEND FUNDS AUTHORIZED IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES OR ANY
3 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION.

4 **§ 54-7. ANNUAL REPORT.**

5 ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30 OF EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE MAYOR
6 AND CITY COUNCIL DETAILING:

7 (1) THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE; AND

8 (2) ANY SPECIFIC POLICY OR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO ADVANCE THE GOALS OF THE
9 OFFICE AND THE NEEDS OF IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN BALTIMORE.

10 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day
11 after the date it is enacted.