

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 14-0197R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Middleton, Kraft, Scott, Henry, Branch, Welch, Curran

Introduced and read first time: November 17, 2014

Assigned to: Land Use and Transportation Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Transportation

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Request for State Action – On-Street Parking Flexibility**

3 FOR the purpose of respectfully requesting that the General Assembly adopt, and the Governor
4 sign, legislation amending State Transportation Article § 21-1004 to allow Baltimore to
5 improve traffic safety by allowing parking on the left side of designated streets where
6 requiring right-side only parking undermines public safety.

7 **Recitals**

8 Baltimore is in many ways unique among Maryland’s jurisdictions. Because of this,
9 occasionally laws that make sense for the counties are a poor fit for our city. The General
10 Assembly has repeatedly recognized this simple fact in the past by granting Baltimore the
11 flexibility to make our own laws in areas where our circumstances may differ from those
12 elsewhere.

13 One area where more flexibility is needed is the application of Maryland Transportation
14 Article § 21-1004(a) to on-street parking in Baltimore. This statewide law generally requires
15 vehicles on a two-way street to park on the right side of the road with their right wheels parallel
16 to the curb, meaning that vehicles must be parked pointing in the direction that traffic flows.

17 In most places, at most times, this is a very sensible requirement that improves safety on our
18 roads. However, in the peculiar environment that exists in some Maryland neighborhoods – with
19 narrow streets, high demand for parking, and few driveways or other safe places to reverse
20 direction – applying this rule can make parking difficult and unsafe.

21 Baltimore should have the ability to address these safety concerns by allowing left-side
22 parking on designated streets where parking on both sides of the street is impossible or would
23 require motorists to make dangerous 3-point or U- turns that block busy intersections and travel
24 lanes in order to reverse direction. Most Baltimore streets would be unaffected if the City was
25 given this right, but on those where it is needed safety would be vastly improved, accidents
26 prevented, and residents spared the threat of a parking ticket for behaving prudently.

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

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
2 Council respectfully requests that the General Assembly adopt, and the Governor sign, legislation
3 amending State Transportation Article § 21-1004 to allow Baltimore to improve traffic safety by
4 allowing parking on the left side of designated streets where requiring right-side only parking
5 undermines public safety.

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the
7 Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the
8 Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House
9 Speaker, the Mayor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.