

CITY OF BALTIMORE
STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
GEORGE A. NILSON, City Solicitor
101 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

January 18, 2011

Honorable President and Members
of the City Council of Baltimore
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

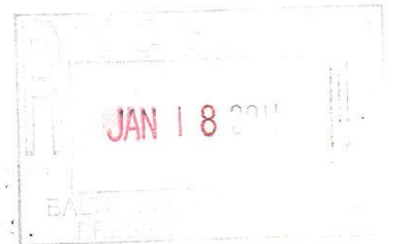
Attn: Karen Randle
Executive Secretary

Re: City Council Bill No. 11-0241R - Resolution-Informational Hearing-
Laws and Policies Governing the Baltimore City Public Schools in
Providing the Safe Transport of Special Needs Students by the School
System and its Contractor Bus Companies and Recommendations for
Additions to Existing Governance Requirements

Dear President and City Council Members:

You have requested the advice of the Law Department regarding City Council Bill 11-0241R. City Council Bill 241R is for the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS), the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Maryland Disability Law Center, parents, guardians and families of special needs students, and the general public to discuss federal, State, and local laws and policies in place to ensure the safety of special needs children transported by the BCPS and its contractors and to recommend possible additions to such laws and policies.

A resolution of the City Council is typically used to express the opinions of the Council on matters of concern to the City or on policy matters that effect the City but are outside of the realm of the City Council's authority to act. McQuillin, Municipal Corporations, Sections 15.01 et seq. As such, City Council Bill 0241R is the appropriate manner in which to express the City Council's desire to seek solutions to serious problems involving the safe transport of special needs school children.



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Accordingly, the Law Department approves the City Council Bill 11-0241R for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,



Elena R. DiPietro
Chief Solicitor

cc: The Honorable Warren Branch
Angela Gibson, City Council Liaison, Mayor's Office
George A. Nilson, City Solicitor
Hilary Ruley
Ashlea Brown
Victor Tervalá