

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0021R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Porter

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Conway, Gray, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos, and
President Cohen

Introduced and read first time: April 28, 2025

Assigned to: Public Health and Environment Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Health Department, Office of LGBTQ Affairs, Office
of Equity and Civil Rights, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore City Public School System,
Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, Department of Social Services, Mayor's Office
of Homeless Services, Office of the City Administrator

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Well-being of Lesbian Women in Baltimore**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Baltimore City Health
4 Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Public School System, the
5 Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the
6 Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the
7 Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Department of Social
8 Services, the Maryland Department of Health, and Behavioral Health System Baltimore to
9 update the Council on services provided to, and the general well-being of, lesbian women in
10 Baltimore.

11 **Recitals**

12 Lesbian women are among the many targets of the second Trump administration's various
13 attacks on equality and anti-discrimination efforts. Shortly after returning to office, this
14 White House rescinded a series of executive orders issued by President Biden, including those
15 that protected individuals from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in health care,
16 schools, and beyond. The new administration also included "lesbian" among the scores of terms
17 related to the experiences of LGBTQ people that it culled from the official White House website
18 in service of its broad attack on equality.

19 According to the Boston University School of Public Health, lesbian women may be up to 3
20 times as likely as heterosexual women to report having been sexually assaulted in their lifetime.
21 They are also more likely to become pregnant as teenagers than their heterosexual peers. In light
22 of this, lesbian women in this country and in our City need greater access to support and medical
23 resources, not less.

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

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1 This regressive push has further endangered lesbian women through a political culture that
2 seeks to claw back personal political and social rights, as seen in national pushes seeking to
3 overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644 (2015), and thus repeal the right to marriage
4 equality nationally. In light of these social, medical, and legal attacks on the rights of lesbians,
5 this City Council seeks updates from key agencies, offices, and organizations on the issues facing
6 lesbian women in Baltimore so that the Council may be best-equipped to serve their needs amid a
7 time of uncertainty.

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
9 Council invites representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Baltimore City Health Department,
10 the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Public School System, the Mayor's Office
11 of Homeless Services, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Mayor's Office of
12 LGBTQ Affairs, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Office of the State's
13 Attorney for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Maryland
14 Department of Health, and Behavioral Health System Baltimore to update the Council on
15 services provided to, and the general well-being of, lesbian women in Baltimore.

16 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
17 Baltimore City Commissioner of Health, the Baltimore Police Commissioner, the Chief
18 Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Director of the Mayor's
19 Office of Homeless Services, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development,
20 the Director of the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the Director of the Baltimore City Office
21 of Equity and Civil Rights, the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, the Director of the Baltimore
22 City Department of Social Services, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health, the
23 President and Chief Executive Officer of Behavioral Health System Baltimore, and the Mayor's
24 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.