

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 19-0162R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: President Scott, Councilmembers Cohen, McCray, Dorsey, Costello, Henry,  
Middleton, Reisinger, Schleifer, Stokes, Bullock, Clarke, Pinkett, Burnett

Introduced and read first time: August 19, 2019

Assigned to: Committee of the Whole

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Baltimore City Public School System,  
Department of Finance

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Baltimore’s Fiscal Readiness for Kirwan**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of the Baltimore City Department of Finance to brief  
4 the City Council on the City’s fiscal readiness for any recommendations that the Kirwan  
5 Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education may put forward to alter public  
6 school funding formulas for Baltimore City, and requesting the CEO of the Baltimore City  
7 Public School System to discuss the implications to City schools if the Kirwan Commission’s  
8 recommendations are not passed or, if passed, are inadequate to ensure that Baltimore City  
9 public schools receive the State funding they deserve.

10 **Recitals**

11 The Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education is an initiative to  
12 develop funding and policy reforms for Maryland schools. The Commission will make  
13 recommendations to the Maryland General Assembly for improving education in Maryland to  
14 prepare students “to meet the challenges of a changing global economy, to meet the State’s  
15 workforce needs, to be prepared for post secondary education and the workforce, and to be  
16 successful citizens in the 21st century.”

17 Comprising elected officials and other stakeholders, the Commission has been methodically  
18 researching and developing recommendations to provide a more equitable public school funding  
19 formula, which will determine how state and local resources are allocated for the next decade.  
20 However, this funding formula must account for the decades of chronic under-funding that  
21 Baltimore City Public Schools have suffered from.

22 Two years ago, a report to the Kirwan Commission documented that City schools need an  
23 additional \$358 million annually to ensure an adequate education for Baltimore’s students, while  
24 an analysis by the State’s own Department of Legislative Services found that elimination of the  
25 inflation factor from the funding formula has resulted in under-funding the City schools by \$290  
26 million per year.

27 The upcoming legislative session in Annapolis will be critically important for the fate of  
28 Baltimore’s children and public education system. Fighting for Baltimore’s public schools as the  
29 Kirwan Commission finalizes its recommendations must be our top priority for the upcoming

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

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1 legislative session, to ensure that Baltimore receives a fair, equitable outcome in these statewide  
2 recommendations.

3 While the new formula has not been finalized, we know it will require that the City invest  
4 more local dollars into our school system. The purpose of this resolution and the hearing it calls  
5 for is to ensure that we, as a City government, are adequately prepared for these dynamic changes  
6 to our public school financing requirements.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City  
8 Council requests the Director of the Baltimore City Department of Finance to brief the City  
9 Council on the City's fiscal readiness for any recommendations that the Kirwan Commission on  
10 Innovation and Excellence in Education may put forward to alter public school funding formulas  
11 for Baltimore City, and requests the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System to discuss  
12 the implications to City schools if the Kirwan Commission's recommendations are not passed or,  
13 if passed, are inadequate to ensure that Baltimore City public schools receive the State funding  
14 they deserve.

15 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the  
16 Department of Finance, the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Mayor, and the  
17 Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.