



F R O M	Name & Title	Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D. Commissioner of Health 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 210 Guilford Ave.		
	Subject	Council Bill 08-0119 – Trans Fats – Exemption for Retail Bakeries		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o
409 City Hall

May 19, 2008

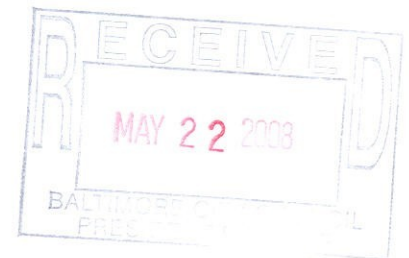
The Baltimore City Health Department opposes City Council Bill 08-0019. The purpose of the bill is to exempt certain retail bakeries from the legislation that bans trans fats in foods and to allow them to prepare and sell foods with trans fat of more than 0.5 grams.

Modern bakers are voicing concern that the ban of trans fat will negatively affect their recipes. The Baltimore Health Department realizes that recipes will need to be changed with the enactment of this ban starting in September 2009. The Department, however, would like to point out that trans fat is not an ingredient that has been around for long. Trans fat is a man-made fat that became mainstream during World War II; as the war progressed the use of margarine and shortening increased due to the rationing of butter. Prior to this time, bakers did not rely on this unhealthy fat to prepare their goods.

New York City has recently created a No Trans Fat Help Center. On its website it lists products with zero trans fat as alternatives for currently used margarines and shortening. New York, with its many bakeries, has not found a need for an exemption to the trans fat rule.

The Baltimore City Health Department will encourage local bakeries to consider alternative recipes that are equally delicious but trans-fat free. We will update the Council on this effort.

Cc: Angela Gibson



Angela Gibson