



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Mary Beth Haller, Interim Commissioner of Health, Baltimore City Health Department
CC	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
DATE	April 4, 2025
SUBJECT	25-0035 - Gas-Powered Debris Removal Equipment – Prohibition – Enforcement

Position: Favorable with amendment

BILL SYNOPSIS

25-0035 – Gas-Powered Debris Removal Equipment – Prohibition – Enforcement is a clarifying, corrective bill that establishes enforcement provisions related to the ban on gas-powered debris removal equipment (i.e., gas-powered leaf blowers).

SUMMARY OF POSITION

This bill proposes necessary amendments to an ordinance passed last year (23-0367), which prohibited the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. The amendments will ensure the ordinance is enforceable by the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD). In relation to enforcement, the bill does the following:

- Requires BCHD or another agency tasked with enforcing the prohibition to adopt relevant rules and regulations, including the use of an affidavit form that complainants will use when submitting a complaint.
- Requires that, in order to find a violation of the prohibition, a special enforcement officer must witness the violation firsthand or that complaints must include a written complaint, photographic evidence, and a signed affidavit form.
- Establishes that, upon a first offense, an enforcement officer shall issue a warning to cease and desist.
- Establishes that, for subsequent offenses, a civil or environmental citation may be issued, along with a \$250 fine for each offense.

BCHD supports the bill and does not believe our general enforcement capability will be negatively impacted by this legislation. However, the agency is aware of amendments being recommended by the Law Department for form and legal sufficiency. Therefore, BCHD respectfully requests a **favorable with amendments** report on Council Bill 25-0035.