
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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July 21, 2022

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

Re: City Council Bill 22-0110R – Investigative Hearing – Baltimore City as
an Abortion Rights Protection Jurisdiction

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 22-0110R for form and legal sufficiency. The bill is for the purpose of requesting that the City Solicitor and representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department appear before the City Council to evaluate if Baltimore City is prepared for an influx of patients seeking to terminate a pregnancy, to identify current barriers to accessing abortion healthcare services, to identify disparities in the ability to access abortion healthcare, specifically for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community and for marginalized racial and ethnic groups, to identify safety concerns abortion healthcare providers have in the present political environment and explore how to address these concerns, and to specify how the recently-passed State Abortion Care Access Act will affect abortion healthcare services in Baltimore City.

The advice and recommendations requested of the City Solicitor must be given to members of the committee outside of a public setting, in a manner which preserves the privilege of the legal entity of the Mayor and City Council. An adequate, knowing waiver cannot be made in this context, where the legal advice is requested as a general discussion of a broad topic, as opposed to written advice on specific legislation.

A resolution is an appropriate way for the City Council of Baltimore to conduct an informational hearing. *See, e.g., Inlet Assocs. v. Assateague House Condominium*, 313 Md. 413, 428 (1988). Therefore, the Law Department approves this Resolution for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

Ashlea Brown
Chief Solicitor

cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief
Jeff Hochstetler, Chief