

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 26-0060R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Parker

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Gray, Bullock, Blanchard, and Ramos

Introduced and read first time: July 13, 2026

Assigned to: Land Use and Transportation Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Planning

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Cannabis Licenses**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, the
4 Department of Planning, and the Office of the Zoning Administrator, and inviting
5 representatives from the Maryland Cannabis Administration, the Maryland Office of Social
6 Equity, and any interested stakeholders, to appear before the City Council to discuss: (1) the
7 approval process for cannabis businesses located in the City; (2) the City's role in compliance
8 with the requirements for cannabis businesses under State law; and (3) the experience of
9 cannabis businesses operating or seeking to operate in the City, including those that have
10 been granted a social equity license by the Maryland Cannabis Administration.

11 **Recitals**

12 In 2023, the General Assembly passed the Cannabis Reform Act (the Act), which created the
13 framework for adult-use cannabis sales in the State. The Act forbids a licensed cannabis
14 dispensary from being located within 1,000 feet of another dispensary and within 500 feet of a
15 school, childcare center, public park, or place of worship.

16 The Act also creates a social equity cannabis license, which is administered by the Maryland
17 Cannabis Administration. The social equity cannabis license was created to ensure opportunity
18 for business owners from areas with rates of cannabis possession charges above 150% of the
19 State's 10-year average. To be eligible for a social equity cannabis license under the Act, a
20 business must be at least 65% owned or controlled by 1 or more individuals who:

- 21 (a) for at least 5 of the 10 years prior to submitting an application, lived in an area with a
22 rate of cannabis possession charges above 150% of the State's 10-year average;
- 23 (b) for at least 5 years, attended a public school in an area with a rate of cannabis
24 possession charges above 150% of the State's 10-year average; or
- 25 (c) for at least 2 years, attended a 4-year institution of higher education in the State where
26 at least 40% of individuals who attended the institution received a Pell Grant.

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

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1 On June 1, 2024, the Maryland General Assembly passed HB0805, which clarifies the
2 statutory requirements for where new cannabis businesses could locate and includes places of
3 worship in the definition of a sensitive location. HB0805 also provides more flexibility to local
4 governments than what was previously authorized under the Act.

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
6 Council requires representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, the Department of
7 Planning, and the Office of the Zoning Administrator, and invites representatives from the
8 Maryland Cannabis Administration, the Maryland Office of Social Equity, and any interested
9 stakeholders, to appear before the City Council to discuss: (1) the approval process for cannabis
10 businesses located in the City; (2) the City's role in compliance with the requirements for
11 cannabis businesses under State law; and (3) the experience of cannabis businesses operating or
12 seeking to operate in the City, including those that have been granted a social equity license by
13 the Maryland Cannabis Administration.

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Health
15 Commissioner, the Director of the Department of Planning, the Zoning Administrator, the
16 Director of the Maryland Cannabis Administration, the Executive Director of the Maryland
17 Office of Social Equity, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.