

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 12-0065R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Welch
Introduced and read first time: August 13, 2012
Assigned to: Health Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Health Department, Department of Transportation,
Baltimore Substance Abuse System

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - Mandatory Patient Transportation for**
3 **Drug Treatment Programs**

4 FOR the purpose of requesting that representatives from the City and State agencies that regulate
5 and support chemical dependency treatment programs appear before the Council to discuss
6 steps that can be taken to make treatment more accessible to residents of areas far from
7 existing facilities while minimizing the impact of treatment facilities on their host
8 neighborhoods, including the possibility of requiring facilities to provide transportation to
9 their patients.

10 **Recitals**

11 Drug treatment centers and other chemical dependency programs provide a valuable public
12 service and help many members of our communities in their efforts to turn their lives around.
13 However, in Baltimore these facilities are not distributed evenly throughout the city and have
14 instead become increasingly concentrated in geographically compact areas.

15 This over-concentration of large programs threatens to undermine the goals of the programs
16 by making them inaccessible to many potential clients in need of assistance, and leaving broad
17 sections of the city under-served. It also tends to exacerbate the strains caused by excessive
18 patient foot traffic, as the treatment facilities threaten to dominate their host neighborhoods by
19 significantly changing their character.

20 A potential solution to both of these problems would be to require chemical dependency
21 programs with 75 or more active participants everyday to provide transportation to their patients
22 through targeted buses, or some other method. This possible solution should be explored with
23 treatment providers, as well as the State and local agencies that regulate and support them.

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
25 Council requests that representatives from the City and State agencies that regulate and support
26 chemical dependency treatment programs appear before it to discuss steps that can be taken to
27 make treatment more accessible to residents of areas far from existing facilities while minimizing
28 the impact of treatment facilities on their host neighborhoods, including the possibility of
29 requiring facilities to provide transportation to their patients.

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

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
2 Health Commissioner, the Director of the Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration, the
3 President & CEO of Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to
4 the City Council.