


FROM	Name & Title	Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., RS Interim Commissioner of Health <i>OF/CoD</i>	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street		
	Subject	Council Bill 09-0373: Food Service Facilities – Suspension or Nonrenewal of Licenses – Multiple or Unpaid Citations		

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

August 24, 2009

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) supports Council Bill 09-0373. The purpose of the Bill is to authorize the Health Commissioner to suspend or deny the renewal of a license for a food service facility that has received multiple environmental or civil citations or is in default of an environmental or civil citation at his/her discretion.

BCHD issues over 5,000 food service facility licenses a year. It is not only the City's responsibility to ensure that these facilities provide safe food and beverages to the public in a sanitary manner, but that these businesses are also conscientious neighbors. To be a conscientious neighbor one must abide by all City laws and be accountable when one fails to do so.

This Bill creates a reasonable sanction for food service facilities that demonstrate, by repeated violations and compliance failures, that they lack the means or the will, or both, to operate lawfully and thus constitute an unnecessary burden to the City and a danger and nuisance to its residents. Repeat offenders and those in default of payment will face the possibility that their business will be temporarily closed. Business closure, even a temporary one, can be financially devastating, and is a step we predict that most businesses will seek to avoid.

With the implementation of Bill 09-0284, food service facilities will more likely comply with City laws. The threat of closure will increase the likelihood that these businesses will be conscientious neighbors.

For the reasons stated above, BCHD supports this bill.

Cc: Angela Gibson

