

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0020R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Porter

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Conway, Gray, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos, and
President Cohen

Introduced and read first time: April 28, 2025

Assigned to: Public Health and Environment Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Office of the City Administrator, Health Department,
Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore City Public School System, Mayor's Office of
Homeless Services, Mayor's Office of Employment Development, Office of LGBTQ Affairs,
Office of Equity and Civil Rights, Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, Department
of Social Services, Mayor's Office of African-American Male Engagement

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Well-being of Gay Men in Baltimore**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Baltimore City Health
4 Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Public School System, the
5 Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the
6 Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the
7 Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Department of Social
8 Services, the Maryland Department of Health, and Behavioral Health System Baltimore to
9 update the Council on services provided to, and the general well-being of, gay men in
10 Baltimore.

11 **Recitals**

12 Bigotry against gay men is a widespread problem, both globally and in the United States.
13 The second Trump administration has aggressively pursued policies which roll back gains made
14 towards equality for many American citizens. Shortly after returning to office, the Trump
15 White House rescinded a series of executive orders issued by President Biden, including those
16 that protected individuals from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in health care,
17 schools, and beyond. The new administration also included "gay" among the scores of terms
18 related to the experiences of LGBTQ people that it culled from the official White House website
19 in service of its broad attack on equality.

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

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1 According to the Baltimore Banner, the Maryland Department of Health and State
2 universities stand to lose in excess of \$300 million of federal funding due to terminated grants by
3 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Portions of these funds had been slated for
4 programs such as those increasing access to HIV prevention, disproportionately affecting
5 marginalized groups like gay Black men and people living with HIV. Further cuts to National
6 Institute of Health grants and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, made under the
7 guises of anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts and of cancelling foreign aid, chiefly serve
8 to endanger vulnerable populations and increase the risk of transmissible diseases in Baltimore
9 and worldwide.

10 This regressive push has further endangered gay men through a political culture that seeks to
11 claw back personal political and social rights, as seen in national pushes seeking to overturn
12 *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644 (2015), and thus repeal the right to marriage equality
13 nationally. In light of these social, medical, and legal attacks on gay rights, this City Council
14 seeks updates from key agencies, offices, and organizations on the issues facing gay men in
15 Baltimore so that the Council may be best-equipped to serve their needs amid a time of
16 uncertainty.

17 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
18 Council invites representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Baltimore City Health Department,
19 the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Public School System, the Mayor's Office
20 of Homeless Services, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, the Mayor's Office of
21 LGBTQ Affairs, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Office of the State's
22 Attorney for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Maryland
23 Department of Health, and Behavioral Health System Baltimore to update the Council on
24 services provided to, and the general well-being of, gay men in Baltimore.

25 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
26 Baltimore City Commissioner of Health, the Baltimore Police Commissioner, the Chief
27 Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Director of the Mayor's
28 Office of Homeless Services, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development,
29 the Director of the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the Director of the Baltimore City Office
30 of Equity and Civil Rights, the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, the Director of the Baltimore
31 City Department of Social Services, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health, the
32 President and Chief Executive Officer of Behavioral Health System Baltimore, and the Mayor's
33 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.