

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 06-0123R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Holton, Young, D’Adamo, Harris, President Dixon,  
Councilmembers Kraft, Curran, Spector, Rawlings Blake, Conaway, Welch, Reisinger,  
Mitchell, Branch, Clarke  
Introduced and adopted: January 9, 2006

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**In Support of Federal Legislation – ( HR 4197) - The Hurricane Katrina Recovery,  
Reclamation, Reconstruction and Reunion Act of 2005**

FOR the purpose of expressing support for the Congressional Black Caucus’ Hurricane Relief  
Legislation that seeks to provide for the recovery of the Gulf Coast region and for the  
reunion of families devastated by Hurricane Katrina and urging members of the Maryland  
State Delegation to the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress to work to secure passage of this comprehensive  
legislative response to the spiritual, emotional, and economic toll exacted by the wrath of  
Katrina.

**Recitals**

On November 3, 2005, all 42 House members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC)  
introduced this Hurricane Katrina relief legislation to provide for the recovery of the Gulf Coast  
region and for the reunion of the families torn apart and forever impacted by the fury of the  
hurricane and called on the President and on Democratic and Republican members of the House  
and Senate to support the measure and to make a commitment to eradicate issues of poverty  
exposed by the hurricane.

In short, the bill provides for the determination of eligibility for compensation for any  
individual, or relatives of a deceased individual, who sustained economic or non-economic  
losses as a result of Hurricane Katrina so that the individual or the relatives are restored as nearly  
as possible to their condition before Hurricane Katrina. Specifically the bill:

- Title I – Victim Restoration Fund: Appoints a Special Master to determine what  
compensation is necessary to restore each individual claimant to his or her pre-Katrina  
condition, offsetting recoveries to each claimant from collateral sources and utilizing  
non-government funds to help reduce the financial burden on the federal government.
- Title II – Environmental Provisions: Directs the Administrator of the Environmental  
Protection Agency to develop a Comprehensive Environmental Sampling and Toxicity  
Assessment Plan, including public health assessments and monitoring, training of clean  
up workers, notification to the public of risks, a step-by-step process for allowing  
residents to return to their property, a process for compensating those unable to return  
because of environmental conditions, and an independent review of determinations.

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

- 1 • Title III – Health Provisions: A) Authorizes grants to rebuild and repair medical facilities  
2 destroyed or damaged by the hurricane and to help close health access and outcome  
3 disparities between minorities and others and provides Medicaid for each survivor under  
4 certain income levels; B) Authorizes 100% federal payment for states to provide  
5 emergency Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF); C) Provides 100% federal  
6 coverage of unemployment benefits for 26 additional weeks; and D) Provides federal  
7 payments to private health insurance premiums for at least 12 months for employees and  
8 employers who could not continue to pay premiums, as the result of Katrina.
  
- 9 • Title IV – Housing and Community Rebuilding Provisions: Authorizes additional federal  
10 funds for Public Housing Capital Funds, HOPE VI Community Revitalization; HOME;  
11 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); YouthBuild; HUD Demonstration Act  
12 Funds; Funding for 300,000 additional Section 8 Vouchers; Fair Housing Enforcement;  
13 and Housing Counseling for families in temporary shelters. It also prohibits placement of  
14 Katrina victims in substandard housing, provides for more vigorous enforcement of Fair  
15 Housing laws, gives them preference for HUD properties, and established a mortgage  
16 payment fund.
  
- 17 • Title V – Education Provisions: Allows additional emergency funding for Child Care  
18 Development Act Grants and Head Start Services; provides additional funding for  
19 elementary and secondary schools to help relocated students and the systems to which  
20 they are relocated, to help rebuild and restart schools in Katrina areas, to help homeless  
21 youth, for community learning centers, for construction, modernization of damaged  
22 schools, and teacher incentive programs; provide loan forgiveness for college students,  
23 grants for reconstruction and renovation of colleges, and grants for recruitment and  
24 retention of students and faculty at colleges impacted by Katrina.
  
- 25 • Title VI – Voting Rights: Provides Katrina evacuees the same absentee ballot and  
26 registration provisions available to military personnel and authorizes up to \$50 million in  
27 grants for restoration and replacement of election materials.
  
- 28 • Title VII – Financial Service Provisions: Waives certain regulations, capital  
29 requirements, and fees and customer identification requirements to facilitate financial  
30 transactions for Katrina victims and provide technical assistance to minority financial  
31 institutions.
  
- 32 • Title VIII – Expanded Opportunity and Small Business Provisions: Reinstates Davis-  
33 Bacon wage requirements, set small and minority business, local business and local  
34 employee participation goals in post-Katrina contracting, requires financial incentives to  
35 be provided to meet these goals, requires contractors to provide apprenticeship  
36 opportunities and reinstate affirmative action requirements suspended by the President  
37 after Katrina. It also authorizes additional funding for new SBA disaster loans and  
38 increases loan caps on SBA loans to small businesses impacted by Katrina; allows the  
39 SBA to defer payments and refinance existing loans; authorizes additional funding for  
40 business counseling, small business development centers and HubZones; and increases  
41 surety bonding threshold for hurricane-related procurement contracts.
  
- 42 • Title IX – Tax Provisions: Provides tax credits of up to \$5,000 for persons or families  
43 displaced by Katrina who purchase or construct homes in the hurricane area, increases  
44 the low-income housing credit dollar amount, and allows the issuance of federally  
45 guaranteed, tax exempt bonds for reconstruction of the Katrina disaster area.

- 1 • Title X – Bankruptcy: Exempts victims of natural disasters from most provisions of the  
2 Bankruptcy reform law that recently became effective.
  
- 3 • Title XI – Miscellaneous Provisions: Requires FEMA to reimburse entities that  
4 preformed services that should have been performed by FEMA following Hurricane  
5 Katrina if requested and allows retroactive purchase of flood insurance by victims who  
6 did not live in a designated flood plain.
  
- 7 • Title XII – Eradicating Poverty: Expresses the sense of Congress that the President  
8 should present within 6 months a plan to eradicate poverty in the United States within 10  
9 years.

10 This legislation is a thorough, scholarly, and compassionate approach to making whole those  
11 who have suffered from an immediate disaster in which they have had no part in creating and in  
12 addressing long-standing systemic wrongs of which they have for too long been victim.

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this  
14 Body supports passage of the Congressional Black Caucus’ Hurricane Relief Legislation that  
15 seeks to provide for the recovery of the Gulf Coast region and for the reunion of families  
16 devastated by Hurricane Katrina and urges members of the Maryland State Delegation to the  
17 109<sup>th</sup> Congress to work to secure passage of this comprehensive legislative response to the  
18 spiritual, emotional, and economic toll exacted by the wrath of Katrina.

19 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this Body urges the Honorable Chairs and Members of  
20 the Subcommittees to which the various provisions of the legislation have been assigned to adopt  
21 the respective provisions of HR 4197.

22 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the President of  
23 the United States, the Honorable Chair and Members of the Legislative Black Caucus, the  
24 Honorable Chairs and Members of the following House Committees: Committee on Ways and  
25 Means; the Judiciary; Financial Services; Energy and Commerce; Transportation and  
26 Infrastructure; Education and the Workforce; Small Business; Government Reform; the Budget;  
27 and the Health Subcommittee of Ways and Means; the Members of the Maryland Delegation to  
28 the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress; the Mayor; the Honorable Chairs and Members to the Baltimore City Senate  
29 and House Delegations to the 2006 Maryland General Assembly, and the Mayor’s Legislative  
30 Liaison to the City Council.