

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 11-0295R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Welch, President Young, Councilmembers Middleton, Branch,  
Kraft, Conaway, Clarke, Reisinger, D'Adamo, Curran, Henry, Spector, Holton

Introduced and read first time: June 13, 2011

Assigned to: Health Committee

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Committee Report: Favorable

Adopted: August 15, 2011

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**Lead Abatement Review Commission**

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2 FOR the purpose of respectfully requesting that the Mayor appoint a Lead Abatement Review  
3 Commission to thoroughly evaluate the City's current lead abatement efforts, make  
4 recommendations to address any deficiencies in lead abatement reporting or practices, and  
5 establish a mechanism for providing regular annual reports on the City's lead abatement  
6 efforts to the City Council and the Mayor.

**Recitals**

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8 Poisoning from lead in lead based paint continues to be a scourge affecting far too many  
9 young people in Baltimore City. Exposure to even small amounts of lead paint dust can lead to  
10 life-long disabilities. Although lead paints are no longer used in residences, dust from paint  
11 applied decades ago is still present as a threat in parts of the aging building stock throughout the  
12 City.

13 Baltimore has wrestled with this problem with varying degrees of success for many years.  
14 Great strides have been made in reducing our children's exposure to lead. Early on in the fight  
15 against lead paint poisoning, the City's lead abatement effort was so successful that it was hailed  
16 as a model for how to address the problem nationwide.

17 Unfortunately, over time, this early success faded - and earlier this year the Health  
18 Department was ruled ineligible to receive any Federal lead abatement funding. In an effort to  
19 regain eligibility for these vital Federal dollars, the lead abatement program was subsequently  
20 transferred to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

21 Simply moving a program deemed ineffective by Federal regulators from one agency to  
22 another, without more, is unlikely to be enough to restore Baltimore's lead abatement program to  
23 its original levels of effectiveness. In order to maximize the returns the City sees from its lead  
24 abatement efforts, fresh eyes are needed to take a good, hard, sustained look at the City's entire  
25 lead abatement program - from project choice and implementation, to performance measurement  
26 and reporting to outside funding sources - in order to thoroughly evaluate where the program may  
27 be falling short and where it has successes that can be built off of.

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

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1 A Lead Abatement Review Commission should be established to perform this evaluation.  
2 With an eye toward existing local, State, and Federal guidelines, this Commission should review  
3 the reporting practices of all agencies involved in lead abatement and establish an annual  
4 reporting of such practices. It should assist in remedying any deficiencies it or other State or  
5 Federal agencies find in reporting on an ongoing basis; and it should help with the development,  
6 review, and assessment of lead abatement practices for the City. The Commission should report  
7 on its findings to the Mayor and City Council, as well all agencies involved with lead abatement  
8 efforts, with recommendations for ensuring that the City can address the ongoing lead paint  
9 poisoning problem in the most effective possible way.

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
11 Baltimore City Council respectfully requests that the Mayor appoint a Lead Abatement Review  
12 Commission to thoroughly evaluate the City’s current lead abatement efforts, make  
13 recommendations to address any deficiencies in lead abatement reporting or practices, and  
14 establish a mechanism for providing regular annual reports on the City’s lead abatement efforts  
15 to the City Council and the Mayor.

16 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
17 Health Commissioner, the Housing Commissioner, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the  
18 City Council.