

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 14-0194R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Mosby, President Young, Councilmembers Middleton, Scott,  
Stokes, Holton, Reisinger, Curran

Introduced and read first time: October 27, 2014

Assigned to: Health Committee

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Committee Report: Favorable

Adopted: January 26, 2015

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**1                    Informational Hearing – Nontherapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Livestock**

2           FOR the purpose of requesting a statewide and national ban on nontherapeutic uses of antibiotics  
3           in livestock production; supporting the enactment of the Protection of Antibiotics for Medical  
4           Treatment Act (PAMTA)/Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA) to address this  
5           dangerous practice; and calling for a hearing to discuss ways to reduce and eliminate the  
6           nontherapeutic uses of antibiotics in livestock production.

**7                    Recitals**

8           **WHEREAS**, 80% of the antibiotics sold in the United States are used in livestock production,  
9           and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that most of those antibiotics are  
10          used irresponsibly.

11          **WHEREAS**, low doses of antibiotics are routinely fed to livestock for disease prevention to  
12          compensate for crowded, unsanitary conditions, in a practice known as “nontherapeutic use”.

13          **WHEREAS**, “nontherapeutic use” creates ideal conditions for the development of antibiotic  
14          resistant bacteria.

15          **WHEREAS**, antibiotic resistant bacteria on livestock operations are known to spread to retail  
16          meat, farmers and farmworkers, and rural environments.

17          **WHEREAS**, antibiotic resistance in pathogens due to nontherapeutic use of antibiotics in  
18          livestock production has been a public health concern since the 1960s.

19          **WHEREAS**, antibiotic resistant bacteria have been the cause of several foodborne illness  
20          outbreaks, including a 2011 outbreak of antibiotic resistant Salmonella in ground turkey that  
21          sickened 136 people, hospitalized 37, and killed one and lead to the third largest meat recall in  
22          the USDA’s records and a 2013 outbreak of antibiotic resistant Salmonella in chicken that  
23          sickened 416 people and hospitalized 162.

24          **WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that at least two million  
25          Americans suffer from antibiotic resistant bacterial infections each year and twenty-three  
26          thousand Americans die from those infections.

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

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1       **WHEREAS**, the medical and social costs of antibiotic-resistant infections in just one hospital  
2 for one year have been estimated to be between \$13 million and \$18 million.

3       **WHEREAS**, the federal government has limited nontherapeutic uses of two classes of  
4 antibiotics, but otherwise largely relied on voluntary guidance to attempt to reduce overuse of  
5 antibiotics in livestock production, despite regular acknowledgments that nontherapeutic use and  
6 the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria poses a significant public health threat.

7       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the  
8 Council requests a statewide and national ban on nontherapeutic uses of antibiotics in livestock  
9 production; supports the enactment of the Protection of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act  
10 (PAMTA)/Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA) to address this dangerous practice;  
11 and calls for a hearing to discuss ways to reduce and eliminate the nontherapeutic use of  
12 antibiotics in livestock production.

13       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
14 Health Commissioner, the Maryland House and Senate Delegations to the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, the  
15 Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, and the  
16 Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.