



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

The Budget and Appropriations Committee is responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are expended prudently and equitably. BA will exercise regular oversight of the funding and spending practices of City agencies, the City's budget, expenditures, loans, and other financial matters. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include all budgets & appropriations, taxation, financial services, consumer protection, audits, and the Comptroller's Office.

The Honorable Danielle McCray

CHAIR

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

9:00 AM

CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS

26-0180

Bond Issue – School Loan – \$60,000,000

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*Staff: Paroma Nandi
(Paroma.Nandi@baltimorecity.gov)*

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(Ethan.Navarre@baltimorecity.gov)*

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(Anthony.Leva@baltimorecity.gov)*

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(Ethan.Navarre@baltimorecity.gov)*

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(Juliane.Jemmott@baltimorecity.gov)*

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**BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE****The Honorable Danielle McCray
CHAIR****Bill Hearing***Bill 26-0180**Bond Issue – School Loan – \$60,000,000*

Purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore (pursuant to General Assembly House Resolution II and Senate Resolution II of 2026 approved by the members of the Maryland General Assembly representing Baltimore City) to create a debt, and to issue and sell, at any time or from time to time and in one or more series its certificates of indebtedness as evidence thereof, and proceeds not exceeding SIXTY Million Dollars (\$60,000,000.00) from the sale of such certificates of indebtedness to be used for the acquisition, by purchase, lease, condemnation, or any other legal means, of land or property, or any rights therein, in the City of Baltimore, and demolishing, constructing and erecting on said land or property, or on any land or property now or hereafter owned by the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and/or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, new school buildings, athletic and other auxiliary facilities including community health and recreation facilities, and for additions and improvements to, or for the modernization or reconstruction of, including the inspection, removal, encapsulation, management, containment and abatement of asbestos from existing facilities, and for equipment for any and all new or existing facilities authorized to be constructed, erected, added, improved, modernized or reconstructed by the provisions hereof; the payment of any and all costs and expenses incurred for or in connection with doing any or all of the things herein mentioned, including, but not limited to, the costs and expenses of securing administrative, appraisal, economic analysis, engineering, planning, designing, architectural, surveying, and other professional services, including, without limitation, services relating to planning for future projects of the same general character which may be constructed out of future loans; and for doing any and all things necessary, proper or expedient in connection with or pertaining to any or all of the matters or things hereinbefore mentioned; authorizing the issuance of refunding bonds; conferring certain powers upon the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners; imposing certain conditions in connection with the expenditure of the proceeds derived from the sale of said certificates of indebtedness; conferring and imposing upon the Board of Finance of Baltimore City certain powers and duties; authorizing the submission of this Ordinance to the legal voters of the City of Baltimore, for their approval or disapproval, at the Election to be held on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2026, and providing for the expenditure of the proceeds of sale of said certificates of indebtedness in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, and by the municipal agency designated in the annual Ordinance of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

REPORTING AGENCIES

Baltimore City Public School System	Favorable
Department of Planning	Favorable
Department of Finance	Favorable
Law Department	Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency

BACKGROUND

Council Bill 26-0180, if approved will require approval from voters through a ballot referendum to issue General Obligation Bonds (GO Bonds) at the upcoming General Election held in Baltimore City on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

This Bill would authorize the Mayor and City Council to authorize debt not exceeding \$60 million to fund the City's School capital budget. The proceeds may be used for planning, developing, executing, and making operative the School program of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

FISCAL NOTE

The Department of Finance's Bill report indicates the proposed borrowing level is based on analysis from the City's debt study that was completed in December 2023. The debt study found that the City can incrementally phase in additional GO Borrowing over the next 10 years and remain within acceptable debt ratio standards. Additional debt service costs will require increased General Fund support; these costs will be planned and budgeted for in future budgets.

Analysis by: Paroma Nandi
Analysis Date: 5/4/2026

Direct Inquiries to: Paroma.Nandi@baltimorecity.gov

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 26-0180
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: The Council President
At the request of: The Administration (Department of Planning)
Introduced and read first time: April 27, 2026
Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Department of Planning, Baltimore City Public School System

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Bond Issue – School Loan – \$60,000,000**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore (pursuant to General
4 Assembly House Resolution II and Senate Resolution II of 2026 approved by the members of
5 the Maryland General Assembly representing Baltimore City) to create a debt, and to issue
6 and sell, at any time or from time to time and in one or more series its certificates of
7 indebtedness as evidence thereof, and proceeds not exceeding SIXTY Million Dollars
8 (\$60,000,000.00) from the sale of such certificates of indebtedness to be used for the
9 acquisition, by purchase, lease, condemnation, or any other legal means, of land or property,
10 or any rights therein, in the City of Baltimore, and demolishing, constructing and erecting on
11 said land or property, or on any land or property now or hereafter owned by the Baltimore
12 City Board of School Commissioners and/or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, new
13 school buildings, athletic and other auxiliary facilities including community health and
14 recreation facilities, and for additions and improvements to, or for the modernization of
15 reconstruction of, including the inspection, removal, encapsulation, management,
16 containment and abatement of asbestos from existing facilities, and for equipment for any
17 and all new or existing facilities authorized to be constructed, erected, added, improved,
18 modernized or reconstructed by the provisions hereof; the payment of any and all costs and
19 expenses incurred for or in connection with doing any or all of the things herein mentioned,
20 including, but not limited to, the costs and expenses of securing administrative, appraisal,
21 economic analysis, engineering, planning, designing, architectural, surveying, and other
22 professional services, including, without limitation, services relating to planning for future
23 projects of the same general character which may be constructed out of future loans; and for
24 doing any and all things necessary, proper or expedient in connection with or pertaining to
25 any or all of the matters or things hereinbefore mentioned; authorizing the issuance of
26 refunding bonds; conferring certain powers upon the Baltimore City Board of School
27 Commissioners; imposing certain conditions in connection with the expenditure of the
28 proceeds derived from the sale of said certificates of indebtedness; conferring and imposing
29 upon the Board of Finance of Baltimore City certain powers and duties; authorizing the
30 submission of this Ordinance to the legal voters of the City of Baltimore, for their approval or
31 disapproval, at the Election to be held on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2026, and

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

Council Bill 26-0180

1 providing for the expenditure of the proceeds of sale of said certificates of indebtedness in
2 accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore,
3 and by the municipal agency designated in the annual Ordinance of Estimates of the Mayor
4 and City Council of Baltimore.

5 **WHEREAS**, By General Assembly House Resolution II and Senate Resolution II of 2026,
6 approved by the members of the Maryland General Assembly representing Baltimore City, the
7 Mayor and City Council is authorized to create a debt and to issue and sell its certificates of
8 indebtedness (hereinafter called “bonds”) as evidence thereof, and proceeds not exceeding
9 SIXTY Million Dollars (\$60,000,000.00) from the sale of such bonds to be used for school
10 purposes as authorized by said Resolution; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Funds are now needed for said purposes; now, therefore,

12 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
13 Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, acting by and through the Board of Finance of said
14 municipality, be and it is hereby authorized and empowered to create a debt and to issue and sell
15 bonds of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore from time to time, as may be needed or
16 required for the purposes hereinafter named and said bonds shall be sold by the Board of Finance
17 from time to time and at such times as shall be requisite, and proceeds not exceeding SIXTY
18 Million Dollars (\$60,000,000.00), from the sale of such bonds shall be used for the purposes
19 hereinafter named, provided that this Ordinance shall not become effective unless it shall be
20 approved by a majority of the votes of the legal voters of Baltimore City cast at the time and
21 place hereinafter designated by this Ordinance.

22 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That:

23 (a) The denomination or denominations of the bonds to be issued at any particular time
24 and the place or places for the payment of principal and interest thereof are to be determined by
25 the Board of Finance.

26 (b) The bonds authorized to be issued and sold under the provisions of this Ordinance
27 may be issued to mature on such dates and in such amounts as the Board of Finance may
28 determine; provided that the entire principal amount represented thereby shall be discharged not
29 more than 40 years from the date of issuance of the bonds.

30 (c) The bonds, when issued, shall bear interest at such rate or rates as may be determined
31 by the Board of Finance, which rate or rates may be fixed or variable or as determined by a
32 method approved by the Board of Finance, and such interest shall be payable at such time or
33 times as may be determined by the Board of Finance.

34 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That a majority of the Board of Finance of the
35 Mayor and City Council of Baltimore be, and they are hereby, authorized to pass a resolution or
36 resolutions, from time to time, to determine and set forth any or all of the following:

Council Bill 26-0180

1 (a) The amount of debt to be incurred by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore at any
2 particular time, and from time to time, under and pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance;
3 the date or dates when any bonds representing said debt, or any part thereof, are to mature, and
4 the amount or amounts of said debt, or any part thereof, which shall mature upon the aforesaid
5 date or dates; and the date or dates in each year, during the entire period of time when any of said
6 bonds are outstanding, when interest on any of said bonds shall be payable;

7 (b) The form or forms of the bonds representing the debt, or any part thereof, authorized
8 to be issued under the provisions of this Ordinance at any particular time; and

9 (c) If the bonds are to be sold at public sale, the time, place, manner and medium of
10 advertisement of the readiness of the Board of Finance, acting for and on behalf of the Mayor and
11 City Council of Baltimore, to receive bids for the purchase of the bonds authorized to be issued
12 hereunder or any part thereof; the form, terms and conditions of such bids; the time, place and
13 manner of awarding bonds so bid for, including the right whenever any of the bonds authorized
14 by this Ordinance are offered for sale and sold at the same time as other bonds of the City, to
15 establish the conditions for bids and awards and to award all of the bonds on an all or none basis,
16 and the time, place, terms and manner of settlement for the bonds so bid for; provided, however,
17 that notwithstanding anything in this section, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, or the
18 Board of Finance, as the case may be, shall have the right to reject any or all bids therefor for any
19 reason.

20 **SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That:**

21 (a) All premiums resulting from the sale of any of the bonds issued and sold pursuant to
22 the provisions of this Ordinance shall be applied as directed by the Board of Finance.

23 (b) The debt authorized by the provisions of this Ordinance, and the bonds issued and
24 sold pursuant thereto and their transfer, and the principal and interest payable thereon (including
25 any profit made in the sale thereof), shall be and remain exempt from any and all State, county
26 and municipal taxation in the State of Maryland.

27 (c) All bonds issued and sold pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance may be sold at
28 public sale by the solicitation of competitive bids or at private (negotiated) sale without
29 advertisement or solicitation of competitive bids, for a price or prices which may be at, above or
30 below par value of the bonds, as determined by resolution of the Board of Finance of the Mayor
31 and City Council of Baltimore.

32 **SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That** until all of the interest on and principal of
33 any bonds issued pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance have been paid in full, the Mayor
34 and City Council of Baltimore shall levy and impose an annual tax on each \$100 of assessable
35 property in the City of Baltimore at a rate sufficient to produce revenue to pay all interest on and
36 principal of all bonds theretofore issued and outstanding or authorized to be issued and
37 outstanding, payable in the next succeeding year.

38 **SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That** this Ordinance shall be submitted to the
39 legal voters of the City of Baltimore, for their approval or disapproval, at the General Election to
40 be held in Baltimore City, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2026.

Council Bill 26-0180

1 **SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That prior to the date of the election
2 hereinbefore mentioned, notice shall be given to the public of the amount of money which the
3 Mayor and City Council of Baltimore is authorized to borrow, and the general purposes for
4 which such borrowed funds may be expended, under the terms and provisions of this Ordinance,
5 and the time when the election hereinbefore mentioned is to be held; and such public notice shall
6 be given in such manner and by such means or through such media and at such time or times as
7 may be determined, from time to time, by a majority of the Board of Finance.

8 **SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the actual cash proceeds derived from the
9 sale of the bonds authorized to be issued under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be used
10 exclusively for the following purposes, to wit:

11 (a) So much thereof as may be necessary for the cost of issuance, including the expense
12 of engraving, printing, advertising, attorneys' fees, and all other incidental expenses connected
13 therewith (which may include the proportion of the compensation of employees and general
14 administrative expenses of the Department of Finance reasonably allocated to the issuance of the
15 bonds); and

16 (b) The remainder of such proceeds shall be used for the acquisition, by purchase, lease,
17 condemnation or any other legal means, of land or property, or any rights therein, in the City of
18 Baltimore, and demolishing, constructing and erecting on said land or property, or on any land or
19 property now or hereafter owned by the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and/or
20 the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, new school buildings, athletic and other auxiliary
21 facilities including community health and recreation facilities, and for additions and
22 improvements to, or the modernization or reconstruction of, including the inspection, removal,
23 encapsulation, management, containment and abatement of asbestos from existing school
24 buildings or facilities, and for equipment for any and all new or existing facilities authorized to
25 be constructed, erected, added to, improved, modernized or reconstructed by the provisions
26 hereof; the payment of any and all costs and expenses incurred for or in connection with doing
27 any or all of the things herein mentioned, including, but not limited to, the costs and expenses of
28 securing administrative, appraisal, economic analysis, engineering, planning, designing,
29 architectural, surveying, and other professional services, including, without limitation, services
30 relating to planning for future projects of the same general character which may be constructed
31 out of future loans; and for or in connection with or pertaining to any or all of the matters or
32 things hereinbefore mentioned.

33 **SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That:

34 (a) The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, acting by and through the Board of
35 Finance thereof, is hereby authorized and empowered to issue its bonds for the purpose of
36 refunding any bonds authorized to be issued under the provisions of this Ordinance by payment
37 at maturity or the purchase or redemption of bonds in advance of maturity. The validity of any
38 refunding bonds shall in no way be dependent upon or related to the validity or invalidity of the
39 bonds being refunded. Such refunding bonds may be issued by the Mayor and City Council of
40 Baltimore, acting by and through the Board of Finance thereof, for the purpose of providing it
41 with funds to pay any of its outstanding bonds authorized to be issued under the provisions of
42 this Ordinance at maturity, to purchase in the open market any of its outstanding bonds
43 authorized to be issued under the provisions of this Ordinance prior to their maturity, to redeem
44 prior to their maturity any outstanding bonds which are, by their terms, redeemable, to pay
45 interest on any outstanding bonds prior to their payment at maturity or purchase or redemption in

Council Bill 26-0180

1 advance of maturity, or to pay any redemption or purchase premium in connection with the
2 refunding of any of its outstanding bonds authorized to be issued under the provisions of this
3 Ordinance.

4 (b) Any refunding bonds authorized to be issued and sold under the provisions of this
5 Ordinance may be issued for the public purpose of:

6 (1) Realizing savings to Baltimore City in the aggregate cost of debt service on either
7 a direct comparison or present value basis; or

8 (2) Debt restructuring that:

9 (i) In the aggregate effects such a reduction in the cost of debt service; or

10 (ii) Is determined by the Board of Finance of the Mayor and City Council of
11 Baltimore to be in the best interests of Baltimore City, to be consistent with Baltimore City's
12 long-term financial plan, and to realize a financial objective of Baltimore City including,
13 improving the relationship of debt service to a source of payment such as taxes, assessments, or
14 other charges.

15 (c) Any refunding bonds authorized to be issued and sold under the provisions of this
16 Ordinance may be issued in whatever principal amount shall be required to achieve the purpose
17 for the issuance of the refunding bonds, which amount may be in excess of the principal amount
18 of the bonds refunded or the maximum principal amount of bonds authorized to be issued under
19 Section 1 of this Ordinance.

20 (d) Any refunding bonds authorized to be issued and sold under the provisions of this
21 Ordinance may be issued to mature on such dates and in such amounts as the Board of Finance
22 may determine; provided that the entire principal amount represented by the refunding bonds
23 shall be discharged not more than 40 years from the date of issuance of the bonds being refunded.

24 (e) Any refunding bonds authorized to be issued and sold under the provisions of this
25 Ordinance may be sold at public sale by the solicitation of competitive bids or at private
26 (negotiated) sale without advertisement or solicitation of competitive bids, for a price or prices
27 which may be at, above or below the par value of the refunding bonds, as determined by
28 resolution of the Board of Finance of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore. If the Board of
29 Finance determines to sell the refunding bonds at public sale, the refunding bonds shall be sold to
30 the highest responsible bidder or bidders therefor after due notice of such sale, but the Mayor and
31 City Council of Baltimore, acting by and through the Board of Finance thereof, shall have the
32 right to reject any or all bids therefor for any reason.

33 (f) Any refunding bonds authorized to be issued and sold under the provisions of this
34 Ordinance shall bear interest at such rate or rates as may be determined by the Board of Finance
35 of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, which rate or rates may be fixed or variable or as
36 determined by a method approved by the Board of Finance, and such interest shall be payable at
37 such time or times as may be determined by the Board of Finance.

Council Bill 26-0180

1 (g) The proceeds of the sale of any refunding bonds authorized to be issued and sold
2 under the provisions of this Ordinance, after the payment of issuance costs relating thereto, shall
3 be set aside by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore as a separate trust fund to be used solely
4 for the purposes stated in this Section 9.

5 (h) Except as otherwise provided in this Section 9, the powers granted in, the limitations
6 and obligations imposed by, and the procedures specified in this Ordinance with respect to the
7 issuance of bonds shall be applicable to the issuance of refunding bonds.

8 (i) Any refunding bonds authorized to be issued and sold under the provisions of this
9 Ordinance shall not be subject to any debt policy limitation that may from time to time be
10 established by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

11 **SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That in the expenditure of the proceeds of sale
12 of said bonds, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall observe the following conditions:

13 (a) Subject to the provisions of the Charter of Baltimore City relating to the Planning
14 Commission, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, shall have the authority to
15 select sites for the construction of any new school buildings hereby authorized;

16 (b) All plans and specifications for the construction or reconstruction of school buildings,
17 or for additions or improvement to school buildings, to be financed out of the proceeds derived
18 from the sale of the bonds herein authorized to be issued, shall be subject to the approval of the
19 Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners prior to the final acceptance of such plans and
20 specifications, and the endorsement of approval by the Board of such plans and specifications
21 shall be made thereon, and shall also be recorded by the Board in its official minutes;

22 (c) All changes in approved plans and specifications which may be found necessary and
23 expedient during the course of construction shall also be subject to the approval of the Baltimore
24 City Board of School Commissioners, and shall also be recorded by the Board in its official
25 minutes; and

26 (d) No part of the proceeds derived from the sale of the bonds hereby authorized to be
27 issued shall be expended without the approval of the Baltimore City Board of School
28 Commissioners.

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL



BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

26-0180

Bond Issue – School Loan – \$60,000,000

Agency Reports

Baltimore City Council Bill 26-0180
Bond Issue – School Loan - \$60,000,000

Budget and Appropriations Committee
May 5, 2026

Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) has reviewed City Council Bill 26-0180, which seeks to authorize the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore (pursuant to General Assembly House Resolution II and Senate Resolution II of 2026 approved by the members of the Maryland General Assembly representing Baltimore City) to create a debt, and to issue and sell its certificates of indebtedness as evidence thereof, and proceeds not exceeding SIXTY Million Dollars (\$60,000,000.00) from the sale of such bonds to be used for school purposes.


City Schools supports City Council Bill 26-0180 and is deeply appreciative of the increase in the annual amount from \$27.5M to \$30M to address school construction needs. The proceeds of these bonds shall be used for the acquisition by purchase, lease, condemnation or any other legal means, of land or property for school purposes including school buildings, athletic and other auxiliary facilities, and for additions and improvements to, and demolishing, constructing, and erecting on said land or property, and for equipment for any and all new or existing facilities authorized.

City Schools finds that the issuance of bonds for these purposes is necessary and desirable for improving public school facilities and educational services in the City. All plans and specifications for the construction or reconstruction of school buildings, or for additions or improvement to school buildings, to be financed out of the proceeds derived from the sale of the bonds, shall be subject to the approval of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners prior to the final acceptance of such plans and specifications, and the endorsement of approval by the Board of such plans and specifications shall be made thereon.

City Schools recommends favorable consideration of Council Bill 26-0180 and will be pleased to provide additional information upon request. Thank you for inviting us to participate in this important process.



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Bob Cenname, Deputy Finance Director 
DATE	May 4 th , 2026
SUBJECT	26-0180 Bond Issue – School Loan – \$60,000,000

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

Position: Support

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on 26-0180 Bond Issue – School Loan – \$60,000,000, for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore (pursuant to General Assembly House Resolution II and Senate Resolution II of 2026 approved by the members of the Maryland General Assembly representing Baltimore City) to create a debt, and to issue and sell, at any time or from time to time and in one or more series its certificates of indebtedness as evidence thereof, and proceeds not exceeding Sixty Dollars (\$60,000,000).

Background

As proposed, City Council Bill 26-0180 would authorize the Mayor and City Council to authorize debt not exceeding \$60 million to fund the City’s School capital budget. The proceeds may be used for planning, developing, executing, and making operative the School program of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

General Obligation (GO) Bonds are one source of funding for the capital budget that fund various critical projects. Based on prior analysis, the City estimates that maintaining its infrastructure in a state of good repair requires at least \$200 million in annual investment. To meet the critical need for infrastructure investment, *Securing Baltimore’s Future*, the City’s new 10-Year Financial Plan, calls for the City to phase in an increase to its annual GO Bond authority, which averaged \$80 million from Fiscal 2020 to 2025. The City aims to reach \$200 million in GO Bond authority by Fiscal 2032. The City’s GO Bond authority was increased to \$125 million for Fiscal 2026 and Fiscal 2027.

Fiscal Impact

Council Bill 26-0180 is one of four bills seeking approval to increase GO borrowing on the November 2026 ballot. In total, these bills propose authorizing the City’s annual GO borrowing to \$140 million for Fiscal 2028 and Fiscal 2029, which is an increase of \$15 million from Fiscal 2026 and Fiscal 2027. The proposed borrowing level is based on analysis from the City’s debt study that

was completed in December 2023. The debt study found that the City can incrementally phase in additional GO borrowing over the next 10 years and remain within acceptable debt ratio standards. Additional debt service costs will require increased General Fund support; these costs will be planned and budgeted for in future budgets.

The authorization is drafted as ‘up to’ meaning the actual GO borrowing amounts reflected in future capital budgets can be reduced based on the City’s financial outlook. The City will evaluate its fiscal condition, including revenue projections, debt capacity, and existing obligations, before issuing any debt to ensure that additional borrowing remains affordable and consistent with best practices in financial management practices. This approach provides flexibility to scale borrowing in alignment with changing revenue and expenditures while maintaining the City’s long-term fiscal stability. Council Bill 26-0180 seeks to authorize \$60 million in GO Borrowing for Schools related capital projects. These projects appear as part of City Schools Systems Upgrades in the capital budget.

Conclusion

The Department of Finance acknowledges the additional General Fund cost associated with increasing the annual GO borrowing authorization. The current funding level for capital projects is not sufficient to fund complete projects and further contributes to the City’s growing deferred maintenance backlog. The Department will make an assessment in Fiscal 2028 and Fiscal 2029 to the level of borrowing that is fiscally sound. This additional investment in capital spending is a critical step towards reducing the City’s risk exposure associated with such significant levels of deferred maintenance.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance supports City Council Bill 26-0180.

cc: Michael Mocksten
Nina Themelis



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Ren Southard, Director, Department of Planning
CC	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
DATE	April 30, 2026
SUBJECT	City Council Bill #24-0180 - Bond Issue - School Loan - \$60,000,000

Position: Favorable

BILL SYNOPSIS

Once approved by voters, the Schools Loan will allow the City to issue debt for renovation, new construction, purchase, demolition of other improvements to school buildings and other property owned or managed by City Schools.

SUMMARY OF POSITION

The Department of Planning (DoP) annually prepares a six-year Capital Improvement Program, the first year of which becomes the City's capital budget. DoP works with agencies that manage physical infrastructure and support improvements to the physical environment of the City. General Obligation (GO) bonds are a small but extremely important piece of the City's capital budget, used to match state and federal funds, fund the City's highest priority projects, and fund necessary projects for which no other source is available. Every two years, the City of Baltimore must get permission from voters through a ballot referendum to issue general obligation bonds (GO bonds). GO bonds are borrowed funds that are used for capital projects, including housing and neighborhood revitalization; school renovations and improvements; economic development; improvements to City parks, recreation centers, and other government facilities; transportation infrastructure; and key City institutions and cultural attractions.

This bill is consistent with what was approved by the Planning Commission in its public meeting on October 30, 2025, and so the Department of Planning recommends that this bill be approved.

FISCAL IMPACT

Baltimore City Public Schools, the City of Baltimore, the State of Maryland, and the Maryland Stadium Authority are partnering to implement the 21st Century Schools initiative, a nearly billion-dollar initiative to renovate or replace more than two dozen school buildings. This loan authorization complements that investment by making critical systemic improvements, such as fire alarms, HVAC systems, and other urgent needs in schools that are not currently funded through the 21st Century Schools Initiative. This loan authorization also allows renovation and replacement of additional schools to take place, leveraging traditional State capital support through the Maryland Public Schools Construction Program. This City contribution is used to match annual State funding through

the Public School Construction Program for improvements to school buildings outside of the 21st Century Schools initiative.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sara Paraniham, Capital Budget Director, at sara.paraniham@baltimorecity.gov.

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
EBONY M. THOMPSON, CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

May 2, 2026

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Mayor and City Council Bill 26-0180 – Bond Issue – School Loan – \$60,000,000

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 26-0180 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would authorize the Mayor and City Council to create a debt not exceeding \$60,000,000 (the “Debt”) for the public purposes that are outlined in the House Resolution II and Senate Resolution II of the General Assembly’s 2026 Legislative Session. The bill also contains provisions concerning the use of the funds, the issuance of the bonds, and other related matters.

Section 7 of Article XI of the Constitution of Maryland prevents the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore from creating general obligation debt that is secured by the full faith and credit of the City without having the proposal first be “(1) presented to and approved by a majority of the members of the General Assembly representing Baltimore City no later than the 30th day of the regular session of the General Assembly immediately preceding its submission to the voters, or (2) authorized by an act of the General Assembly.” The aforementioned General Assembly Resolutions of 2026 have satisfied this requirement. The Maryland Constitution also requires that this bill “provide for the discharge of any such debt or credit within the period of 40 years from the time of contracting the same,” which it does.

Additionally, the Maryland Constitution requires that after enactment, this ordinance be “submitted to the legal voters of the City of Baltimore, at such time and place as may be fixed by the ordinance, and approved by a majority of the votes cast at that time and place.” Md. Const., Art. XI, § 7. This bill provides for this requirement in Section 6. The Law Department approves Council Bill 26-0180 for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hilary Ruley".

Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Jeffrey Hochstetler, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
Michele Toth, Assistant Solicitor
Desiree Luckey, Assistant Solicitor