

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Council Bill 26-0157**

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Introduced by: President Cohen and Councilmembers Parker, Ramos, and Gray  
Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Conway, Middleton, Bullock, Blanchard, Jones, Glover,  
Dorsey, Torrence  
Introduced and read first time: March 9, 2026  
Assigned to: Land Use and Transportation Committee  
Committee Report: Favorable, with amendments  
Council action: Adopted  
Read second time: May 11, 2026

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**AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING**

**Private Detention Centers – Citywide Ban**

FOR the purpose of establishing a private detention center as a prohibited use Citywide; defining certain terms; making conforming changes; and providing for a special effective date.

BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments,

Article 32 - Zoning

Sections ~~1-209, 1-307(a), and 1-312(p)~~ 1-209 and 1-307(a)

Baltimore City Code

(Edition 2000)

BY renumbering

Article 32 - Zoning

Section 1-311(w) and (x)

to be

Section ~~1-311(y) and (z)~~ 1-311(x) and (y)

Baltimore City Code

(Edition 2000)

BY adding

Article 32 - Zoning

Section 1-311(w)

Baltimore City Code

(Edition 2000)

**SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That Section 1-311(w) and (x), respectively, of Article 32 - Zoning of the Baltimore City Code be renumbered to be Section ~~1-311(y) and (z)~~, 1-311(x) and (y), respectively.

**EXPLANATION:** CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.  
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

RULE 12-2 ✪ THIRD READER PREPARED AND REVIEWED DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE
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Council Bill 26-0157

Title 1. General Provisions

Subtitle 3. Definitions

§ 1-307. “Government facility” to “Industrial boat repair”.

(a) *Government facility.*

(1) *In general.*

“Government facility” means a structure or land that is operated by a government agency.

(2) *Inclusions.*

“Government facility” includes agency offices, storage yards, public works facilities, recreation: indoor, and utility facilities that are operated by a government agency.

(3) *EXCLUSION.*

“GOVERNMENT FACILITY” DOES NOT INCLUDE A PRIVATE DETENTION CENTER.

§ 1-311. “Parapet” to “Processed metal”.

(w) *PRIVATE DETENTION CENTER.*

(1) *IN GENERAL.*

“PRIVATE DETENTION CENTER” MEANS ANY BUILDING, FACILITY, OR STRUCTURE THAT:

(1) ~~(I)~~ IS OWNED OR OPERATED BY A PRIVATE, NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITY PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT WITH A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY; AND

(1) ~~(2)~~ IS USED, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, TO HOUSE OR DETAIN AN ~~INDIVIDUAL~~ INDIVIDUAL, AT THE DIRECTION OF A GOVERNMENT AGENCY:

(A) ~~(I)~~ PRIOR TO TRIAL OR SENTENCING;

(B) ~~(II)~~ DURING THE TERM OF THE INDIVIDUAL’S SENTENCE;

(C) ~~(III)~~ FOR A FEDERAL IMMIGRATION VIOLATION; OR

(D) ~~(IV)~~ FOR ANOTHER JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS OR PROCEEDING.

(2) *EXCLUSIONS.*

“PRIVATE DETENTION CENTER” DOES NOT INCLUDE A RESIDENTIAL-CARE FACILITY.

Council Bill 26-0157

1 § 1-312. ~~“Property line” to “Roof deck”.~~

2 ~~(p) Residential-care facility.~~

3 ~~(1) IN GENERAL.~~

4 ~~“Residential-care facility” means a group care or similar facility for the 24-hour~~  
5 ~~medical or non-medical care of individuals in need of personal services, supervision,~~  
6 ~~or assistance essential to sustain activities of daily living, or to protect the individual.~~

7 ~~(2) EXCLUSION.~~

8 ~~“RESIDENTIAL-CARE FACILITY” DOES NOT INCLUDE A PRIVATE DETENTION CENTER.~~

9 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is  
10 enacted.

**Council Bill 26-0157**

Certified as duly passed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Baltimore City