

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**COUNCIL BILL 26-0157**  
**(First Reader)**

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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

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Planning Commission, Department of Transportation, Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, Department of Housing and Community Development, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Office of Equity and Civil Rights

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Private Detention Centers – Citywide Ban**

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

5 BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments,

6 Article 32 - Zoning  
7 Sections 1-209, 1-307(a), and 1-312(p)  
8 Baltimore City Code  
9 (Edition 2000)

10 BY renumbering

11 Article 32 - Zoning  
12 Section 1-311(w) and (x)  
13 to be  
14 Section 1-311(y) and (z)  
15 Baltimore City Code  
16 (Edition 2000)

17 BY adding

18 Article 32 - Zoning  
19 Section 1-311(w)  
20 Baltimore City Code  
21 (Edition 2000)

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

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



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**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.*

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

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

(2) IS USED, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, TO HOUSE OR DETAIN AN INDIVIDUAL:

(I) PRIOR TO TRIAL OR SENTENCING;

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

(III) FOR A FEDERAL IMMIGRATION VIOLATION; OR

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

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

(p) *Residential-care facility.*

(1) *IN GENERAL.*

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

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1           (2) *EXCLUSION.*

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

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