

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 08-0080R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Young, Branch, Henry, Cole, Clarke, Reisinger

Introduced and read first time: October 27, 2008

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Finance

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Budget Reconciliation Measures – Out-of-Town Travel for City Employees**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of Finance and the Chief, Bureau of the Budget &  
4 Management Research to report to the City Council on the amount of general fund revenue  
5 spent for out-of-state travel for City employees last fiscal year, the year-to-date and projected  
6 spending for the current fiscal year, and the impact on the budget shortfall if out-of-state  
7 travel is disallowed for the rest of this fiscal year.

8 **Recitals**

9 The downturn in the national economy, the associated local recession, and an increase in  
10 public safety efforts are 2 contributing factors leading to a projected \$36.5 million shortfall in  
11 Baltimore City’s budget. To date, the existing shortfall is the result of a projected \$15 million  
12 drop in recordation and transfer tax revenue combined with a projected \$21 million outlay for  
13 increased fire and police overtime.

14 Administration officials plan to address most of the shortfall - \$18.9 million - by extending a  
15 hiring freeze; \$6.1 million will be saved by reclaiming unspent procurement funds; \$2.2 million will  
16 not be expended for middle-management raises to gain parity with surrounding subdivisions; and  
17 the remaining \$10.8 million in savings will result from cutbacks of personnel, services, and  
18 training in the Police and Fire Departments.

19 Despite efforts of the federal government to address the economic crisis the country faces,  
20 the fiscal outlook may not improve for the country, the state, or local government. To be  
21 proactive, it is imperative that officials find the least intrusive methods of addressing further  
22 shortfalls. Exploring the effect of prohibiting out-of-state travel paid for with general funds  
23 would appear to satisfy the requirement for minimal impact on City employees who are already  
24 bearing the brunt of the government’s economic hardship.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
26 Director of Finance and the Chief, Bureau of Budget & Management Research are requested to  
27 report to the City Council on the amount of general fund revenue spent for out-of-state travel for  
28 City employees last fiscal year, the year-to-date and projected spending for the current fiscal  
29 year, and the impact on the budget shortfall if out-of-state travel is disallowed for the rest of this  
30 fiscal year.

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

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1       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Directors, Commissioners, and Executive  
2 Directors of Baltimore City government are invited to attend the hearing on this Resolution.

3       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
4 Director of Finance, the Chief, Bureau of Budget & Management Research, the Directors,  
5 Commissioners, and Executive Directors of Baltimore City government, and the Mayor's  
6 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.