
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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April 7, 2025

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

Re: City Council Bill 25-0036 – Property Taxes – Baltimore City Payment in Lieu of Taxes
Task Force

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 25-0036 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would require the creation of a Task Force to study the City's implementation of the state real property tax law authorizing Payments in Lieu of Taxes. The City has the general welfare power to create such a task force. City Charter, Art. II, § (47). The bill should clarify if the ex-officio members are part of the quorum or can vote.

The Law Department's seat on the task force could be a conflict of interest since the Law Department is the legal representative of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, which includes its task forces. City Charter, Art. I, § 1; Art. VII, § 24; Md. Rule 19-301.7, note 34 (organizational client conflicts); Md. Rule 19-301.13 (Organization as Client); Md. Rule 19-301.11 (Special Conflict of Interest for Current and Former Government Officers and Employees). The bill should be amended to remove line 20 on page 3.

Assuming the bill is amended, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony M. Thompson, City Solicitor
Ty'lor Schnella, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
Jeffrey Hochstetler, Chief Solicitor
Michele Toth, Assistant Solicitor
Desiree Lucky, Assistant Solicitor