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

April 9, 2025

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

Re: City Council Bill 25-0052 - City Buildings - Provision of Menstrual

Products

Dear President and Members of the Council:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 25-0052 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill is for the purpose of requiring municipal agencies to provide menstrual products free of charge in public restrooms in buildings owned or leased by the City and defining certain terms. The bill would take effect on the 30th day after enactment.

Sections (27) and (47) of Article II of the City Charter provide that the Mayor and City Council may "exercise within the limits of Baltimore City all the power commonly known as the Police Power to the same extent as the State has or could exercise that power within the limits of Baltimore City," and may "pass any ordinance, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter or the laws of the State, which it may deem proper in the exercise of any of the powers, either express or implied, enumerated in this Charter, as well as any ordinance as it may deem proper in maintaining the peace, good government, health and welfare of Baltimore City." City Charter, Art. II, §§ (27), (47). The intent of the bill is to provide access to necessary menstrual products which positively affects the health and welfare of City residents. Public schools are already required to provide menstrual products at no cost in women's bathrooms. See Md. Code, Educ., § 7-449.

The Law Department notes that the term "contracted organization" under the definition of "entity" should be separately defined for clarity. Additionally, as written the law does not require the installation of a menstrual product dispenser in a restroom that is used only by employees of the entity and is not accessible by the public. It is unclear whether this result was intended.

The Law Department can approve Council Bill 25-0052 for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,

Michele Toth Assistant Solicitor

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cc: Ebony Thompson
Ethan Hasiuk
Ty'lor Schnella
Shamoyia Gardiner

Ty'lor Schnella
Shamoyia Gardiner
Hilary Ruley
Jeff Hochstetler
Ashlea Brown
Desiree Luckey
Ahleah Knapp