
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

EBONY M. THOMPSON, ACTING CITY SOLICITOR
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BALTIMORE, MD 21202

October 25, 2024

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 24-0594 – City-Wide Affordable Housing Bond Issuance

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 24-0594 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill proposes to authorize the issuance of special obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed 65 million dollars (\$65,000,000) for development of the City-Wide Affordable Housing Development District (to be created by the companion bill 25-0594) pursuant to the authority granted by Section (62) of Article II of the City Charter.

Section (62) of Article II of the City Charter requires that this bond ordinance specify the proposed undertaking, confirm that it meets the prerequisites for bond issuance in subsection (d) of Section (62), and provide the maximum principal amount of the bonds to be issued. City Charter, Art. II, § (62)(f). The ordinance may also authorize the Board of Finance by resolution to set the terms of the public or private sale of the bonds. City Charter, Art. II, § (62)(h)(4).

A technical amendment is needed in line 18 on page 2 of the bill to clarify that legislation is enacted by the Mayor and City Council, not the City Council alone. City Charter, Art. III, § 11; Md. Constit., Art. XI-A, § 3 (“the Mayor of Baltimore and City Council of the City of Baltimore . . . subject to the Constitution and Public General Laws of this State, shall have full power to enact local laws of said City.”). The proper amendment is attached to this report.

The Law Department notes that City Council Bill 24-0595 must also be enacted for this bill to be legally sufficient, as that bill contain provisions necessary under the City Charter to effectuate the issuance of the bonds referred to in this bill.

The bill conforms to the requirements of the City Charter. Assuming it is enacted along with City Council Bill 24-0595, and the technical amendment is adopted, the Law Department can approve it for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hilary Ruley".

Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony M. Thompson, Acting City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
Michelle Toth, Assistant Solicitor
Desiree Lucky, Assistant Solicitor

AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL BILL 24-0594
(1st Reader Copy)

Proposed by: Law Dep't

Amendment No. 1 (Conform to Charter)

On page 2, in line 18, insert "MAYOR AND" before "CITY COUNCIL".