



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Timothy Keane, Acting Commissioner, Housing and Community Development
<b>CC</b>	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
<b>DATE</b>	June 24, 2026
<b>SUBJECT</b>	26-0178 Baltimore Harbor – Transfer of Authority to Department of Transportation

**Position: Favorable**

**BILL SYNOPSIS**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 26-0178 Baltimore Harbor – Transfer of Authority to Department of Transportation for the purpose of repealing obsolete provisions of Subtitle 5 {"Harbor"} of the Public Local Laws of Baltimore City and Article 10 {"Harbors, Docks, and Wharves"} of the Baltimore City Code regarding Baltimore Harbor; transferring the authority to regulate Baltimore Harbor from the Department of Housing and Community Development to the Department of Transportation; establishing the Office of the Harbormaster and all attendant authorities and duties under the Department of Transportation; and otherwise relating to the use and management of Baltimore Harbor

If enacted, City Council Bill 26-0178 would transfer authority to regulate Baltimore Harbor from the Department of Housing and Community Development to the Department of Transportation, establish the Office of the Harbormaster under the Department of Transportation, and delete obsolete provisions of the related code. If approved, this Bill will take effect on the 30th day after its enactment.

**SUMMARY OF POSITION**

This Bill primarily intends to formally transfer the regulatory authority of the Inner Harbor to The Department of Transportation's (DOT) Harbormaster Office and clean up outdated references within the code. Examples of that authority include the ability to set docking rates, collect docking fees from boaters, designate mooring fields and anchorages, and more. This regulation has historically been carried out by DOT's Dockmaster (now Harbormaster), but city code technically designates this authority to DHCD.

DHCD supports the effort to transfer Inner Harbor regulatory authority to DOT. Designating the Harbormaster as responsible for such provisions would be both rational and in alignment with the historical application. We would also like to express our gratitude to DOT for their thorough and thoughtful efforts in explaining to our agency why this legislation was necessary and the ways by which it might benefit Baltimore City. DHCD respectfully requests a favorable report on City Council Bill 26-0178 Baltimore Harbor – Transfer of Authority to Department of Transportation.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

As drafted, this Bill would have minimal fiscal or administrative impact on DHCD.

#### **AMENDMENTS**

DHCD does not seek any amendments to this Bill at this time.