



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Mary Beth Haller, Interim Commissioner of Health, Baltimore City Health Department
<b>CC</b>	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
<b>DATE</b>	February 18, 2025
<b>SUBJECT</b>	25-0001 - Department of Consumer Protection and Business Licensing

**Position: Favorable**

**BILL SYNOPSIS**

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 25-0001, entitled "Department of Business Licensing and Consumer Protection." This ordinance would create the Department of Business Licensing and Consumer Protection (Department) as an independent City agency. The Department would centralize the administration, oversight, and enforcement of City business licenses, permits, and practices for:

- Auctions
- Unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practices
- "Going out of business" sales
- Scrap collectors and scavengers
- Scrap metal dealers
- Motor fuel sales
- Pawnbrokers
- Second-hand property, antiques, and consignment goods
- Housing and urban renewal
- Licensing of peep show establishments
- Amusements
- Amusement device location permits
- Carriages, wagons, boats, and scows
- Employment agencies
- Late-night commercial operations
- Massage establishments
- Commercial parking facilities
- Special-event parking lots
- Street entertainers
- Street vendors
- Itinerant wholesale produce dealers
- Transient merchants
- Towing services – trespass towing

**SUMMARY OF POSITION**

BCHD does not currently oversee the licensing operations that would fall under the purview of the newly created Department and does not anticipate that this bill would result in a fiscal or operational impact on the agency. However, BCHD agrees that if the creation of this Department would result in consumers being better protected and licensing processes being made more efficient, this ordinance is warranted. Therefore, BCHD respectfully requests a favorable position on Council Bill 25-0001.