



F R O M	Name & Title	Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D. Commissioner 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 210 Guilford Ave.		
	Subject	Council Bill 08-0071 – Environmental Citations – Default		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o
409 City Hall

April 7, 2008

The Baltimore City Health Department supports, with amendment, City Council Bill 08-0071. The purpose of the bill is to extend to one year the deadline by which a person can be considered in default of an environmental citation.

The current law states that a person cited under an environmental citation is conclusively considered to have admitted liability for the violation cited and responsibility for abating the violation if the person fails to pay the prepayable fine or having requested a hearing, fails to appear for the hearing. The deadline to pay the fine or request a hearing is generally ninety (90) days after the citation is issued to the individual.

The Health Department issues environmental citations on a regular basis. Although our goal is to have violations abated as quickly as possible, we want to ensure that alleged violators have an opportunity to be heard by the Environmental Control Board. The Health Department supports any changes that will help to guarantee a fair administrative process, yet supports the firm enforcement of environmental violations. The Health Department would thus amend the length of time to 120 days. 120 days will not only allow time for a fair process, but also allow a reasonable enforcement process to proceed.

Cc: Angela Gibson

F/A

