

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 18-0120R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Scott, Burnett, Henry, Pinkett, Cohen, Stokes, Dorsey, Sneed,
Clarke, Reisinger, Schleifer, Bullock
Introduced and adopted: December 6, 2018

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

1 **Request for State Action – Strengthening Penalties for Straw Purchases and Trafficking**
2 **Hand Guns in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on the Maryland General Assembly to enact, and the Governor to
4 sign, legislation that strengthens the penalties for straw purchases and gun trafficking in
5 Maryland, from a misdemeanor to a felony with increased fines.

6 **Recitals**

7 From January 1, 2018, to December 2, 2018, 286 homicides were committed in the City of
8 Baltimore. Of the 286 homicides, 250 were the result of gun violence. Baltimore Police
9 Department officials believe that the overwhelming majority of these homicides were carried out
10 with illegal firearms. Baltimore City has recently joined a growing list of cities that partner with
11 local police agencies and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms in operating a Crime
12 Gun Intelligence Center that traces every gun recovered to its origin. From January 2017 to July
13 2018, the Baltimore Police Department recovered and traced 1,776 guns. 813 of those guns had
14 an origin in Maryland, while 953 came from outside the state. While Maryland has done
15 extensive legislative work to prevent guns from ending up in the hands of violent repeat
16 offenders and others who should not have them, it has not done nearly enough to deal with those
17 who illegally purchase and traffic guns into the state. Increasing the penalties for straw purchases
18 and gun trafficking would allow police departments and other local law enforcement agencies to
19 build strong cases and cut off the flow of illegal guns into our state and city.

20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
21 Council calls on the Maryland General Assembly to enact, and the Governor to sign, legislation
22 that strengthens the penalties for straw purchases and gun trafficking in Maryland, from a
23 misdemeanor to a felony with increased fines.

24 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Baltimore City
25 Police Commissioner, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and
26 Senate Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the
27 Maryland House Speaker, the Governor of Maryland, the Mayor of Baltimore City, and the
28 Mayor's Legislation Liaison to the City Council.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.