


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Andrew Kleine, Chief	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432 City Hall (396-4941)		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #14-0316		

DATE: February 3, 2014

TO The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
Room 400, City Hall

Attention: Ms. Karen Randle

City Council bill 14-0316 has been introduced for the purpose of establishing a Special Fund for Preserving the City's Natural Environment. This would be a non-lapsing fund to be funded by either proceeds from revenue sources as dedicated by ordinance, from private contributions or gifts, or by annual appropriations or supplemental appropriations.

The establishment of a new special fund in and of itself does not have any fiscal impact, and so the Department of Finance does not object to its creation.

However, the Finance Department recommends amending the bill to remove section D.1, which would allow the fund to consist of "proceeds from fines, fees, taxes, surcharges, and other revenues that have been dedicated to the special fund by ordinance."

The Finance Department supports an amendment for two primary reasons. First, the designation of funds for a particular purpose, in this case to support sustainability efforts, limits the flexibility of the current or future Administrations to allocate resources according to current priorities. The Finance Department believes that decisions regarding the allocation of resources among priorities, including sustainability efforts, ought to be part of the annual budget planning process rather than adding language to the City code to commit funds to one purpose or another for the present and years into the future. Second, to the extent that this bill provides the City Council authority to dedicate proceeds from fines, fees, taxes, surcharges, and other revenues to this fund by ordinance, this could potentially put the City's operating budget at risk during the course of a given fiscal year.

cc: Harry Black
Angela Gibson



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