

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 16-0289R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Holton, President Young, Councilmembers Kraft, Middleton,
Costello, Scott, Henry, Welch, Clarke, Reisinger

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2016

Assigned to: Health Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Health Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Request for Federal Action – Instituting Smoke-Free Public Housing**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on the Department of Housing and Urban Development to enact the
4 proposed rule *Instituting Smoke-Free Public Housing* requiring each public housing agency
5 administering public housing to implement a smoke-free policy.

6 **Recitals**

7 The 2006 U.S. Surgeon General’s Report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure*
8 *to Tobacco Smoke*, has concluded that (1) secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and
9 premature death in children and adults who do not smoke; (2) children exposed to secondhand
10 smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory
11 problems, ear infections, and asthma attacks, and that exposure to smoke slows lung growth in
12 children; (3) exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the
13 cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer; and (4) there is no
14 risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Research reviewed in the Surgeon General’s
15 Report indicates that smoke-free policies are the most economic and effective approach for
16 providing protection from exposure to secondhand smoke.

17 Numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air
18 pollution, and that breathing secondhand smoke (also known as environmental tobacco smoke) is
19 a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and
20 lung cancer. The National Cancer Institute determined in 1999 that secondhand smoke is
21 responsible for the early deaths of approximately 53,000 Americans annually.

22 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency determined that there is sufficient evidence that
23 secondhand smoke causes cancer in humans and classified secondhand smoke as a Group A
24 carcinogen. In 2002, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services formally listed
25 secondhand smoke as a known human carcinogen in The U.S. National Toxicology Program’s
26 10th Report on Carcinogens.

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

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1 In 2006, the California Environmental Protection Agency's Air Resources Board determined
2 that secondhand smoke is a toxic air contaminant, finding that exposure to secondhand smoke
3 has serious health effects, including low birth-weight babies, SIDS, increased respiratory
4 infections in children, asthma in children and adults, lung cancer, sinus cancer, and breast cancer
5 in younger, pre-menopausal women, heart disease, and death.

6 Inasmuch as there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, the American Society of
7 Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) bases its ventilation
8 standards on totally smoke-free environments. ASHRAE has determined that there is currently
9 no air filtration or other ventilation technology that can completely eliminate all the carcinogenic
10 components in secondhand smoke and the health risks caused by secondhand smoke exposure,
11 and recommends that indoor environments be smoke-free in their entirety.

12 In light of this overwhelming evidence that any exposure to secondhand smoke is profoundly
13 dangerous, it is imperative that the Department of Housing and Urban Development enact and
14 enforce smoke-free public housing regulations to avoid further endangering the health and
15 well-being of our public housing residents.

16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
17 Council calls on the Department of Housing and Urban Development to enact the proposed rule
18 *Instituting Smoke-Free Public Housing* requiring each public housing agency administering
19 public housing to implement a smoke-free policy.

20 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Secretary of
21 Housing and Urban development, the Mayor, the Housing Commissioner, and the Mayor's
22 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.