

CITY OF BALTIMORE
ORDINANCE _____
Council Bill 26-0157

Introduced by: President Cohen and Councilmembers Parker, Ramos, and Gray
Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Conway, Middleton, Bullock, Blanchard, Jones, Glover,
Dorsey, Torrence
Introduced and read first time: March 9, 2026
Assigned to: Land Use and Transportation Committee
Committee Report: Favorable, with amendments
Council action: Adopted
Read second time: May 11, 2026

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING

Private Detention Centers – Citywide Ban

FOR the purpose of establishing a private detention center as a prohibited use Citywide; defining certain terms; making conforming changes; and providing for a special effective date.

BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments,

Article 32 - Zoning

Sections ~~1-209, 1-307(a), and 1-312(p)~~ 1-209 and 1-307(a)

Baltimore City Code

(Edition 2000)

BY renumbering

Article 32 - Zoning

Section 1-311(w) and (x)

to be

Section ~~1-311(y) and (z)~~ 1-311(x) and (y)

Baltimore City Code

(Edition 2000)

BY adding

Article 32 - Zoning

Section 1-311(w)

Baltimore City Code

(Edition 2000)

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That Section 1-311(w) and (x), respectively, of Article 32 - Zoning of the Baltimore City Code be renumbered to be Section ~~1-311(y) and (z)~~, 1-311(x) and (y), respectively.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

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Title 1. General Provisions

Subtitle 3. Definitions

§ 1-307. "Government facility" to "Industrial boat repair".

(a) *Government facility.*

(1) *In general.*

"Government facility" means a structure or land that is operated by a government agency.

(2) *Inclusions.*

"Government facility" includes agency offices, storage yards, public works facilities, recreation: indoor, and utility facilities that are operated by a government agency.

(3) *EXCLUSION.*

"GOVERNMENT FACILITY" DOES NOT INCLUDE A PRIVATE DETENTION CENTER.

§ 1-311. "Parapet" to "Processed metal".

(w) *PRIVATE DETENTION CENTER.*

(1) *IN GENERAL.*

"PRIVATE DETENTION CENTER" MEANS ANY BUILDING, FACILITY, OR STRUCTURE THAT:

(I) ~~(+)~~ IS OWNED OR OPERATED BY A PRIVATE, NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITY PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT WITH A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY; AND

(II) ~~(2)~~ IS USED, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, TO HOUSE OR DETAIN AN ~~INDIVIDUAL~~; INDIVIDUAL, AT THE DIRECTION OF A GOVERNMENT AGENCY:

(A) ~~(+)~~ PRIOR TO TRIAL OR SENTENCING;

(B) ~~(#)~~ DURING THE TERM OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S SENTENCE;

(C) ~~(##)~~ FOR A FEDERAL IMMIGRATION VIOLATION; OR

(D) ~~(IV)~~ FOR ANOTHER JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS OR PROCEEDING.

(2) *EXCLUSIONS.*

"PRIVATE DETENTION CENTER" DOES NOT INCLUDE A RESIDENTIAL-CARE FACILITY.

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1 ~~§ 1-312. "Property line" to "Roof deck".~~

2 ~~(p) Residential-care facility.~~

3 ~~(1) IN GENERAL.~~

4 ~~"Residential-care facility" means a group care or similar facility for the 24-hour~~
5 ~~medical or non-medical care of individuals in need of personal services, supervision,~~
6 ~~or assistance essential to sustain activities of daily living, or to protect the individual.~~

7 ~~(2) EXCLUSION.~~

8 ~~"RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY" DOES NOT INCLUDE A PRIVATE DETENTION CENTER.~~

9 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is
10 enacted.

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Certified as duly passed this 11th day of May, 2026



President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,

this 13th day of May, 2026



Chief Clerk

Approved this 16th day of June, 2026



Mayor, Baltimore City

Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency.

this 13th day of May, 2026



Chief Solicitor