

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 13-0100R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Mosby, Middleton, Stokes, Kraft,
Scott, Welch, Clarke, Spector, Reisinger, Branch

Introduced and read first time: March 4, 2013

Assigned to: Health Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Housing and Community Development,
Health Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **In Support of State Action – Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing**

3 FOR the purpose of supporting adoption of House Bill 1067, or similar legislation, to align
4 Maryland lead poisoning prevention policies with CDC recommendations, and urging the
5 Health Department and the Department of Housing and Community Development to improve
6 their coordination in order to maximize the effectiveness of both current lead poisoning
7 prevention efforts and the improvement of efforts that passage of House Bill 1067 would
8 allow.

9 **Recitals**

10 Lead poisoning has been a scourge afflicting Baltimore’s children for far too long. Although
11 concerted efforts to address lead poisoning throughout Maryland have made dramatic progress in
12 reducing its occurrence over the last 2 decades, it remains far too common - and
13 disproportionately impacts low income urban communities concentrated in older housing units
14 such as many in Baltimore.

15 The only truly effective intervention against lead poisoning is prevention. Recognizing this,
16 the CDC recommends that public health actions be initiated at relatively low levels of exposure
17 in order to minimize the potential for lead to build up in people’s systems over time. They
18 recommend intervention when as little as 5 micrograms of lead are detected per deciliter of a
19 child or pregnant woman’s blood. This standard is half the level at which Maryland law
20 currently requires actions to be taken.

21 House Bill 1067, currently pending before the General Assembly, would lower the actionable
22 level of lead under Maryland law from 10 to 5 micrograms per deciliter, in line with the CDC
23 recommendations. Adopting this standard would encourage or require lead hazard reduction in
24 many more structures, and therefore prevent, or at least mitigate, countless cases of lead
25 poisoning. Instead of waiting until a child reaches a higher lead poisoning level of 10
26 micrograms per deciliter, HB1067 triggers environmental intervention at lower levels to prevent
27 children from reaching higher lead poisoning levels that may cause additional permanent
28 damage. We therefore strongly urge that Maryland adopt the 5 microgram standard.

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

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1 Here in Baltimore, getting the most benefit from any new standard, as well as existing
2 programs, requires that all City agencies work together cooperatively toward our shared goal of
3 eliminating lead poisoning. We therefore also call on the Health Department to take a more
4 proactive approach toward lead poisoning prevention, especially in relation to lead hazard
5 reduction and home renovation, by improving coordination with the Department of Housing and
6 Community Development and community-based partners. We also encourage the Health
7 Department to undertake a public awareness campaign to make citizens aware of the new CDC
8 guidelines.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
10 Council supports adoption of House Bill 1067, or similar legislation, to align Maryland lead
11 poisoning prevention policies with CDC recommendations, and urging the Health Department
12 and the Department of Housing and Community Development to improve their coordination in
13 order to maximize the effectiveness of both current lead poisoning prevention efforts and the
14 improvement of efforts that passage of House Bill 1067 would allow.

15 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable
16 Chair and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the Maryland
17 General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House Speaker, the
18 Mayor, the Housing Commissioner, the Health Commissioner, and the Mayor's Legislative
19 Liaison to the City Council.