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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
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July 9, 2020

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 20-0510 Trauma-Informed Care Task Force Composition  
– Revisions and Clarifications

Dear President and City Council Members:

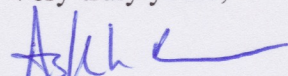
The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 20-0510 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill adds two educators with experience within the Baltimore City Public School system to the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force; clarifies that one councilmember appointed to the task force have substantial experience as an educator with the Baltimore City Public school system; clarifies that one councilmember appointed to the task force have substantial experience as a parent with the Baltimore City Public school system and that the councilmember appointed with substantial experience as an educator shall be co-chair of the task force and provides for a special effective date.

The bill requires the City Council President to designate the Councilmember with experience as an educator as co-chair of the task force. This is potentially problematic, because the Councilmember with experience as an educator is recommended by the City Council President as a *potential* appointee to the Mayor. Article IV, Section 6 of the City Charter gives the Mayor the sole power of appointment. Therefore, although recommended by the City Council President, this member is still only a recommendation that could be accepted by the Mayor or declined. Should the Mayor choose not to accept this recommendation, designating that member as co-chair would be impossible. This issue could be solved by adding language to either 22-17B(15)(i)(A) (the section where the Councilmember is recommended) or 22-18(e)(3) (the section where the co-chairs are designated) clarifying that the designation as co-chair can only take place if that councilmember is appointed by the Mayor as a member of the task force. In addition, the directive language with regard to the Mayor should be revised as it poses a potential charter violation.

Suggested amendments are attached.

Subject to the above, the Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

  
Ashlea Brown  
Assistant Solicitor



cc: Dana P. Moore, Acting City Solicitor  
Matthew Stegman, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor  
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor  
Victor Tervala, Chief Solicitor



**AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL BILL 20-0510**  
(1<sup>st</sup> Reader Copy)

Proposed by Law Dep't  
{To be offered to the Health Committee}

**Amendment No. 1**

On page 4, line 6 strike the brackets around "may" and strike SHALL

**Amendment No. 2**

On page 3, line 4 after "SYSTEM" add WHO SHALL SERVE AS CO-CHAIR IF  
APPOINTED  
OR

**Amendment No. 2 (alt)**

On page 4, line 12, after "force" add IF THAT COUNCILMEMBER WAS APPOINTED  
TO THE TASK FORCE.