

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0015R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Porter

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Conway, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Blanchard,
Jones, Ramos, and President Cohen

Introduced and read first time: March 24, 2025

Assigned to: Public Health and Environment Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Mayor’s Office of LGBTQ Affairs,
Office of Equity and Civil Rights, Health Department, Department of Finance, Police
Department, Baltimore City Public School System, Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services,
Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, Office of the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City,
Department of Social Services

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Mayor’s Office, the Baltimore City Health
4 Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Public School System, the
5 Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services, the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, the
6 Mayor’s Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the
7 Office of the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Department of Social
8 Services, the Maryland Department of Health, and Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore to
9 update the Council on services provided to, and the general well-being of, the transgender
10 community in Baltimore.

11 **Recitals**

12 Anti-transgender stigma, transphobia, and the dehumanization of transgender individuals is
13 prevalent in the media, politics and public policy. According to the Human Rights Campaign
14 Foundation’s (HRCF) 2018 report *Dismantling a Culture of Violence: Understanding*
15 *Anti-Transgender Violence and Ending the Crisis*, transgender and gender-expansive people face
16 stigma surrounding who they are from an early age. Often rooted in inaccurate beliefs and
17 politically-motivated attacks on transgender identities, this stigma erects barriers in virtually
18 every facet of life, denying transgender people the equal opportunity to succeed and be accepted
19 for who they are. In a Baltimore-based Be the Conversation study, transgender and non-binary
20 Baltimoreans said that they view stigma and transphobia as a leading contributor to their
21 experiences with violence. This stigma and lack of general knowledge and acceptance has a
22 profound impact on the health, well-being, and safety of transgender individuals.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 The second Trump administration has unleashed a slew of policies and orders rooted in
2 scientific ignorance and hatred of transgender people, including refusing to change gender
3 markers on federal documents, transferring transgender women to men’s prisons, and
4 recognizing only 2 genders that are inextricably linked to only 2 biological sexes. Removing
5 existing civil rights protections codifies discrimination against transgender individuals and
6 increases the risk of ideologically-motivated attacks. Transphobic discrimination is found in
7 unequal barriers to education, economic development, housing, health care, and the justice
8 system.

9 In a report by GLSEN, the nation's leading education non-profit addressing LGBTQ issues in
10 K-12 schools, over half of transgender students (54%) have been denied access to restrooms that
11 are consistent with their gender and nearly half of transgender students (48%) have been
12 prevented from using their chosen name. In addition, the HRCF report indicates that 84% of
13 transgender youth do not feel safe in the classroom. With the Trump executive order that blocks
14 schools from requiring teachers to use the name and pronouns that match the identity of
15 transgender students, these feelings of isolation and alienation can only become more extreme.

16 Extensive barriers to health care exist for the transgender community. Finding medical
17 professionals that respect and affirm their identities as well as insurance that covers medically
18 necessary procedures are on-going challenges. Transgender individuals report being denied care
19 simply because of their gender identity. Additionally, President Trump has directed Congress to
20 adopt laws forbidding the use of federal money to support necessary gender-affirming care for
21 transgender youth. Transphobia leads to adverse mental health outcomes, including suicidality
22 and PTSD. Other barriers faced include unstable housing, increased rates of homelessness, and
23 employment discrimination.

24 Transgender individuals suffer from an increased rate of violence. In the study “Supporting
25 Transgender Research and Opportunities in the Baltimore Environment”, 75% of participants had
26 experienced physical violence in their lifetime. Violence is highly prevalent for local transgender
27 women of color, especially violence perpetrated by strangers and intimate partner violence.
28 Specifically, in Baltimore, police violence and harassment are among the concerns that face the
29 transgender community.

30 Black transgender women in Baltimore suffer from the added impacts of racism and sexism,
31 compounding the transphobia they face. Given their added obstacles, Black transgender women
32 are especially vulnerable, with many dealing with poverty, homelessness, intimate partner
33 violence, sexual assault, survival sex work, addiction, HIV and other STIs, and general violence.
34 The level of violence against Black transgender women is extreme and disproportionate: as noted
35 by HRCF in its 2024 Epidemic of Violence Report, Black trans women made up 50% of all trans
36 or gender non-conforming American victims of homicide from November 2023 to November
37 2024 and almost 75% of all such victims recorded since 2013.

38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
39 Council invites representatives from the Mayor’s Office, the Baltimore City Health Department,
40 the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Public School System, the Mayor’s Office
41 of Homeless Services, the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, the Mayor’s Office of
42 LGBTQ Affairs, the Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Office of the State’s
43 Attorney for Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Maryland
44 Department of Health, and Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore to update the Council on
45 services provided to, and the general well-being of, the transgender community in Baltimore.

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
2 Baltimore City Commissioner of Health, the Baltimore City Police Commissioner, the Chief
3 Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Director of the Mayor’s
4 Office of Homeless Services, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development,
5 the Director of the Mayor’s Office of LGBTQ affairs, the Director of the Baltimore City Office
6 of Equity and Civil Rights, the Baltimore City State’s Attorney, the Director of the Baltimore
7 City Department of Social Services, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health, the
8 President and Chief Executive Officer of Behavioral Health System Baltimore, and the Mayor’s
9 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.