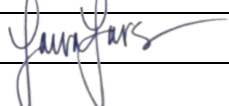




CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Laura Larsen, Budget Director 
DATE	April 8 th , 2025
SUBJECT	25-0035 Gas-Powered Debris Removal Equipment – Prohibition – Enforcement

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 25-0035, Gas-Powered Debris Removal Equipment – Prohibition – Enforcement, for the purpose of clarifying and conforming certain provisions related to the enforcement of the prohibition of gas-powered debris removal equipment.

Background

The City Council has addressed legislation regarding Gas-Powered Debris Removal Equipment (GPDRE) in the past. In 2023, the same sponsor introduced City Council Bill 23-0367 – Prohibition – Gas-Powered Debris Removal Equipment, which was passed and signed by the Mayor in December 2024. The intent of Bill 23-0367 was to prohibit the use of gas-powered debris removal equipment in Baltimore City to reduce noise and air pollution, which negatively affect the health and welfare of city residents. The legislation defined gas-powered debris removal equipment as a handheld device powered by an internal combustion engine used to blow, vacuum, displace, or gather debris.

City Council Bill 25-0035 clarifies the enforcement of Bill 23-0367. It grants the Baltimore City Health Department the authority to establish rules and an affidavit process for citizen complaints. Enforcement officers can issue citations based on direct observation or complaints supported by photographic evidence. The ordinance applies immediately to city entities and contractors upon enactment, with a phased implementation for the general public. During the transition, the use of gas-powered debris removal equipment will be permitted during fall cleanup periods until December 15, 2026, when the ban takes full effect.

Fiscal Impact

The Health Department has stated that this legislation will not require additional employees to implement. The Finance Department estimates that the Health Department will be able to enforce the ordinance within its existing resources.

Conclusion

City Council Bill 25-0035 clarifies the enforcement of Bill 23-0367, which was passed in December 2024 to ban gas-powered debris removal equipment in Baltimore City to reduce noise and air pollution. The Health Department is authorized to establish enforcement rules and a citizen complaint process, allowing citations based on direct observation or photographic evidence. The ban applies immediately to city entities and contractors, with a phased implementation for the general public until full enforcement begins on December 15, 2026. The Health Department and Finance Department confirm that implementation will not require additional resources.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 25-0035.

cc: Michael Mocksten
Nina Themelis