


F R O M	Name & Title	Mary Beth Haller, Acting Commissioner of Health	Health Department  AGENCY REPORT	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject/ Position	23-0378 – Unlawful Practices - Discrimination Based on Characteristics or Status  <b>Favorable</b>		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o 409 City Hall

May 24, 2023

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 23-0378, entitled “Unlawful Practices - Discrimination Based on Characteristics or Status.” This ordinance seeks to extend certain protections against discrimination to an individual regardless of the individual’s HIV or AIDS status, other characteristics or status, or association with individuals with a particular characteristic or status; to prohibit the willful use of the incorrect name or pronouns of an individual under certain circumstances; and to require a certain notice be posted in certain facilities.

This bill would amend Article 4, Subtitle 3, § 3-1 through 3-5 of the Baltimore City Code. The bill would not impact BCHD beyond requiring the agency to post certain notices in its clinics.

BCHD houses the Bureau of Clinical Services and HIV/STI Prevention and the Bureau of Ryan White and Community Risk Reduction Services. Among other things, these bureaus provide services to Baltimoreans who have or are at increased risk for HIV/AIDS, provide HIV prevention education, and work to reduce HIV/AIDS-related stigma. The agency staffs the [HIV Planning Group and Commission](#), a group of key stakeholders involved in the continuum of HIV care who provide guidance on HIV prevention activities for the City. The agency also staffs the support office for the [Greater Baltimore HIV Health Services Planning Council](#). The planning council sets funding priorities for federal HIV/AIDS service dollars under the [Part A Program](#) and develops a comprehensive plan for delivering HIV/AIDS services.

With consideration for the importance of protecting Baltimore City residents from discrimination based on health status, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation, BCHD requests a **favorable** position on Council Bill 23-0378.