

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 21-0079R
(First Reader)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Burnett, Dorsey, Cohen, Bullock, Middleton, Porter, Ramos

Introduced and read first time: November 15, 2021

Assigned to: Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Health, Housing Authority of Baltimore City

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - Mold in Housing**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community
4 Development, the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, the Health
5 Commissioner, and the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health or his designee to
6 appear before the City Council to discuss the potential dangers of mold in housing.

7 **Recitals**

8 Mold is a health risk for many vulnerable members of our community, including infants and
9 children, individuals with respiratory conditions, allergies, or asthma, and persons with weakened
10 immune systems.

11 Mold grows indoors, typically where there is water damage, high humidity, or dampness.
12 Common sources of indoor moisture that can cause mold to grow include flooding, roof and
13 plumbing leaks, and damp basements and crawl spaces.

14 The Institute of Medicine has found sufficient evidence to link indoor exposure to mold to
15 upper respiratory tract symptoms, coughs, and wheezing in otherwise healthy people, and to
16 aggravated asthma symptoms in people with asthma. Indoor exposure to mold can lead to flu-like
17 symptoms, such as cough, congestion, headache, and fatigue.

18 The Baltimore City Council is interested in learning about mold in housing, City agencies'
19 current strategies to address mold in owner-occupied and rental housing, remedies tenants and
20 homeowners in our community have when they are exposed to indoor mold, and ways regulatory
21 efforts can be enhanced.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
23 Council invites the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development,
24 the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, the Health Commissioner,
25 and the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health or his designee to appear before the City
26 Council to discuss the potential dangers of mold, agency regulatory efforts, and remedies for
27 renters and homeowners.

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

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Commissioner
2 of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Executive Director of the
3 Housing Authority of Baltimore City, the Health Commissioner, the Secretary of the Maryland
4 Department of Health, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.