

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0030R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Torrence

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Middleton, Gray, Bullock, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos, and Porter

Introduced and read first time: August 18, 2025

Assigned to: Housing and Economic Development Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Consumer Protection and Business Licensing, Health Department, Department of Housing and Community Development

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Task Force on Residential Care Facility Licensing**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Residential Care Facility Licensing to study
4 and make recommendations to the Department of Consumer Protection and Business
5 Licensing for a clear, enforceable, and comprehensive framework for licensing and regulating
6 residential care facilities in the City; establishing the members of the Task Force; and
7 requiring a report of findings and recommendations to be submitted to the Mayor and City
8 Council.

9 **Recitals**

10 **WHEREAS**, residential care facilities provide essential services to vulnerable populations
11 including seniors, people with disabilities, and individuals with chronic health needs.

12 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore City lacks a centralized, consistent framework for the licensing and
13 oversight of these facilities, creating risks to residents, challenges for providers, and concern
14 among community members.

15 **WHEREAS**, effective licensing and enforcement depend on coordinated leadership, clear
16 standards, and a central body to ensure compliance and protect consumers.

17 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Consumer Protection and Business Licensing has a critical role
18 to play in safeguarding the rights of Baltimore City residents and is best positioned to serve as
19 the licensing and regulatory authority for residential care facilities.

20 **WHEREAS**, a multi-stakeholder task force is essential to developing enforceable, equitable,
21 and transparent policies for licensing, oversight, and community accountability.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
23 Council calls for the creation of a task force to study and make recommendations to the
24 Department of Consumer Protection and Business Licensing for a clear, enforceable, and
25 comprehensive framework for licensing and regulating residential care facilities in the City.

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**, There is a Task Force on Residential Care Facility
2 Licensing (“the Task Force”), established to achieve the following:

- 3 (1) Conduct a comprehensive review of local and State requirements governing
4 residential care facilities, including but not limited to zoning, health, safety, staffing,
5 and operational standards;
- 6 (2) Identify gaps, conflicts, and barriers to enforcement of licensing standards;
- 7 (3) Evaluate models from other jurisdictions for effective licensure and oversight;
- 8 (4) Develop recommendations for a standardized, Citywide licensing process;
- 9 (5) Recommend enforceable regulations and an accountability system to ensure
10 compliance with licensing standards;
- 11 (6) Solicit input and feedback from a broad range of stakeholders, including:
 - 12 (i) Operators of licensed and unlicensed residential care facilities;
 - 13 (ii) The Maryland Department of Health;
 - 14 (iii) The Baltimore City Health Department;
 - 15 (iv) The Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development;
 - 16 (v) The Department of Consumer Protection and Business Licensing;
 - 17 (vi) Disability and elder care advocacy organizations;
 - 18 (vii) Community associations and neighborhood leaders; and
 - 19 (viii) Current or former residents of licensed and unlicensed residential care
20 facilities or their family members; and
- 21 (7) Recommend a legislative and regulatory framework for the creation of a licensing
22 structure housed within the Department of Consumer Protection and Business
23 Licensing.

24 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Task Force shall consist of the following 15
25 members:

- 26 (1) 3 members chosen by the Mayor;
- 27 (2) 3 members chosen by the City Council President;

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1 (3) 3 members chosen by the Councilmember who sponsored this Resolution; and

2 (4) 6 members that represent providers, advocates, regulators, and community members,
3 who should be selected by consensus of the 9 members specified in paragraphs (1)
4 through (3).

5 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That, by a majority vote, the members of the Task Force
6 shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among their membership at the first meeting of the Task
7 Force.

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Task Force shall submit a written report to the
9 Mayor and City Council within 180 days of its first meeting. The report shall include:

10 (1) Findings from its review of current practices;

11 (2) Recommendations for a licensing and oversight framework; and

12 (3) A draft legislative proposal establishing a licensing and oversight framework under
13 the authority of the Department of Business Licensing and Consumer Protection.

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the
15 Department of Consumer Protection and Business Licensing, the Health Commissioner, and the
16 Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.