

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 06-0132R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Conaway, D’Adamo, Curran, Kraft, Holton, Harris, Branch,
Young, Mitchell, Reisinger, Clarke, President Dixon, Councilmembers Rawlings Blake,
Welch

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2006

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Board of Elections Supervisors

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Making Voting Easier for All**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting that the Baltimore City Board of Elections report to the City
4 Council regarding its plan to help and educate disabled residents regarding absentee ballots
5 and transportation options to get more disabled voters to the polls, as well as what
6 instructional plan is set in place to inform voters on how to operate the new voting machines
7 that are being put to use in the upcoming election.

8 **Recitals**

9 On election day, disabled residents have the challenge of making sure that they are able to
10 vote. More than any other group, disabled voters face situations that make the voting process
11 potentially more difficult than it should be. They may have difficulty obtaining access to voter
12 information as well as getting to and from voting polls. Because the Board of Elections is
13 responsible to insure that local, State, and federal election laws are followed and adhered to as
14 well as to investigate other policy options to make sure that all registered voters are not inhibited
15 from voting in any way, it is important that they have a devised plan of action to aid disabled
16 voters in any way necessary.

17 In addition to helping disabled voters, there is also the issue of the new voting machines that
18 are to be put to use in the upcoming election. Many voters are used to the old machines and are
19 unsure of what to expect and what they will find when they go to the polls to vote in the
20 upcoming election. The Board of Elections should have an instructional plan, as well as a way
21 of getting the instruction regarding the use of the new machines out to voters. An informational
22 hearing will allow the Board to inform the Council as well as allow the Council to provide
23 feedback on voter understanding of new systems to aid the Board in the distribution and
24 organization of instructional plans.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
26 Body requests the Baltimore City Board of Elections report to the City Council regarding its plan
27 to help and educate disabled residents regarding absentee ballots and transportation options in
28 order to get more disabled voters to the polls, as well what instructional plan is set in place to

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

1 inform voters on how to operate the new voting machines that are being put to use in the
2 upcoming election.

3 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
4 Baltimore City Board of Elections, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the Council.