

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 14-0194R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Mosby, President Young, Councilmembers Middleton, Scott,
Stokes, Holton, Reisinger, Curran

Introduced and read first time: October 27, 2014

Assigned to: Health Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Health Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Nontherapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Livestock**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting a statewide and national ban on nontherapeutic uses of antibiotics
4 in livestock production; supporting the enactment of the Protection of Antibiotics for Medical
5 Treatment Act (PAMTA)/Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA) to address this
6 dangerous practice; and calling for a hearing to discuss ways to reduce and eliminate the
7 nontherapeutic uses of antibiotics in livestock production.

8 **Recitals**

9 **WHEREAS**, 80% of the antibiotics sold in the United States are used in livestock production,
10 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that most of those antibiotics are
11 used irresponsibly.

12 **WHEREAS**, low doses of antibiotics are routinely fed to livestock for disease prevention to
13 compensate for crowded, unsanitary conditions, in a practice known as “nontherapeutic use”.

14 **WHEREAS**, “nontherapeutic use” creates ideal conditions for the development of antibiotic
15 resistant bacteria.

16 **WHEREAS**, antibiotic resistant bacteria on livestock operations are known to spread to retail
17 meat, farmers and farmworkers, and rural environments.

18 **WHEREAS**, antibiotic resistance in pathogens due to nontherapeutic use of antibiotics in
19 livestock production has been a public health concern since the 1960s.

20 **WHEREAS**, antibiotic resistant bacteria have been the cause of several foodborne illness
21 outbreaks, including a 2011 outbreak of antibiotic resistant Salmonella in ground turkey that
22 sickened 136 people, hospitalized 37, and killed one and lead to the third largest meat recall in
23 the USDA’s records and a 2013 outbreak of antibiotic resistant Salmonella in chicken that
24 sickened 416 people and hospitalized 162.

25 **WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that at least two million
26 Americans suffer from antibiotic resistant bacterial infections each year and twenty-three
27 thousand Americans die from those infections.

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

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1 **WHEREAS**, the medical and social costs of antibiotic-resistant infections in just one hospital
2 for one year have been estimated to be between \$13 million and \$18 million.

3 **WHEREAS**, the federal government has limited nontherapeutic uses of two classes of
4 antibiotics, but otherwise largely relied on voluntary guidance to attempt to reduce overuse of
5 antibiotics in livestock production, despite regular acknowledgments that nontherapeutic use and
6 the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria poses a significant public health threat.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
8 Council requests a statewide and national ban on nontherapeutic uses of antibiotics in livestock
9 production; supports the enactment of the Protection of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act
10 (PAMTA)/Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA) to address this dangerous practice;
11 and calls for a hearing to discuss ways to reduce and eliminate the nontherapeutic use of
12 antibiotics in livestock production.

13 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
14 Health Commissioner, the Maryland House and Senate Delegations to the 113th Congress, the
15 Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, and the
16 Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.