


F R O M	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner <i>Oxiris Barbot</i>	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 12-0055: Residential Substance-Abuse Treatment Facilities		

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

May 7, 2012

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 12-0055 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities. The purpose of this bill is to allow certain zoning districts residential substance-abuse treatment facilities as a conditional use requiring an ordinance, or in certain circumstances, as a permitted use. The bill also authorizes the Zoning Administrator, under certain circumstances, to provide reasonable accommodation in the application of the Zoning Code to individuals protected under certain federal laws.

Our partner, Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems (BSAS), who handles these matters, believes that passage of Council Bill 12-0055 will result in a less onerous application and approval process for certain types of residential treatment programs in particular zones. In addition, the proposed changes will serve to remove much of the ambiguity in the zoning code.

BCHD supports the general purpose of Council Bill 12-0055 and will participate at the hearing to provide any information that may be needed in assisting the council in making an informed decision.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Amy Samman, Legislative Director, Department of Health
Greg Warren, President & CEO, BSAS
Carlos Hardy, Director, Public Affairs, BSAS

