

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 09-0170R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Henry, Clarke, Middleton, Holton, Curran, Kraft
Introduced and read first time: November 2, 2009
Assigned to: Community Development Subcommittee

Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: January 11, 2010

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Request for State Legislation - Transfer of Liquor Licenses

FOR the purpose of requesting the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the 2010 Maryland General Assembly to introduce legislation governing the transfer of liquor licenses.

Recitals

State law authorizes the Board Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City to issue licenses governing the sale and consumption of beer, wine, and liquor and to approve or deny the transfer of these licenses between private parties when the business is offered for sale or otherwise conveyed to new ownership.

While many licensees are upstanding corporate citizens, trying hard to be good neighbors to their surrounding residents, communities across Baltimore City have consistently voiced concerns about those licensees who see their business as nothing more than an opportunity to prey on the vulnerable populations nearby.

As previously referenced in the recitals of Resolution 08-0031R, the “saturation of a community with liquor outlets has been shown to be an important component of the social infrastructure that destabilizes communities. It is imperative that government agencies with authority over land-use and/or liquor licenses help fight crime and blight and improve the quality of life by controlling licenses to sell alcohol and the location and proliferation of licenses.”

One of the difficulties facing both the communities of Baltimore City, and its Board of Liquor License Commissioners, is that the state law regulating these licenses allows the Board to consider only the character of the applicant when considering a transfer of a license. Since so many of the situations in which a community is unhappy with a licensee involve chronic neighborhood disruptions already in existence, and since this information cannot be considered when deciding whether or not to allow the transfer of a license, many chronically bad businesses remain so over the years.

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

