

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 22-0136R
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Ramos

Introduced and read first time: September 19, 2022

Assigned to: Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Office of Information Technology, Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, Office of Equity and Civil Rights

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Status of the Baltimore City**
3 **Municipal Identification Card Program**

4 FOR the purpose of inviting the City Solicitor and representatives from the Department of
5 Finance, the Mayor’s Office of Information Technology, the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant
6 Affairs, and the Office of Equity and Civil Rights to discuss the status of the Baltimore City
7 Municipal Identification Card Program, including obstacles, solutions, and a timeline for
8 implementation.

9 Many residents of Baltimore City are unable to obtain government-issued identification
10 cards, which are essential to fully participate in the City’s diverse society. Although the City
11 offers an array of cultural, educational, and civic opportunities meant to be accessible to all
12 members of our community, this barrier leaves thousands of individuals – including immigrants,
13 those experiencing homelessness, transgender individuals, senior citizens, youth, and formerly
14 incarcerated people – without access to these necessary services.

15 Though the noted groups of individuals face unique obstacles in acquiring government-issued
16 identification – including language and transportation barriers among undocumented residents,
17 challenges in modifying gender information for transgender and gender non-conforming
18 residents, and transient or non-existent residency requirements for those experiencing
19 homelessness – they collectively face stigma and burdensome administrative policies for
20 obtaining necessary documents. This increases the likelihood these individuals will experience
21 discrimination in seeking employment or housing or otherwise participating in cultural or civic
22 life.

23 Whereas Article 1, Subtitle 38 {“Municipal Identification”} of the City Code (Ordinance
24 16-586) was passed in 2016, no meaningful action has been taken to implement a Citywide
25 municipal identification card program.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
2 Baltimore Council invites the City Solicitor and representatives from the Department of Finance,
3 the Mayor’s Office of Information Technology, the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, and the
4 Office of Equity and Civil Rights to discuss the status of the Baltimore City Municipal
5 Identification Card Program, including obstacles, solutions, and a timeline for implementation.

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this resolution will be sent to the City
7 Solicitor, the Director of the Department of Finance, the Chief Digital Officer of the Mayor’s
8 Office of Information Technology, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, the
9 Chief Equity Officer of the Office of Equity and Civil Rights, and the Mayor’s legislative liaison
10 to the City Council.