



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Bill: 22-0140R

Informational Hearing - Permit Reforms

Sponsor: Councilmember Ramos

Introduced: October 3, 2022

Purpose:

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Office of the City Administrator, the Baltimore City Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshal, and other relevant parties to provide information on reforms to the Department of Housing and Community Development's permit process.

Effective: The 30th day after enactment.

Agency Reports

City Solicitor	Favorable
City Administrator	Report Not Received
Department of Housing and Community Development	Report Not Received
Baltimore City Fire Department	Report Not Received

Analysis

Background

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is responsible for enforcing the Baltimore City Building Code and state laws pertaining to construction and occupancy. In addition to issuing building permits, DHCD also provides inspections for construction, alteration, electrical, mechanical and plumbing work in both commercial and residential structures. Similar to other jurisdictions, applications for construction and occupancy permits are handled by a One Stop Permit Shop. DHCD's One Stop Permit Shop provides online and in-person services.

Council Resolution 22-0140R invites representatives from City agencies to brief the committee regarding the City's permit process specifically focusing on the following:

1. One-Stop Shop Permit Center
 - a. Standardization, coordination and communication of information
 - b. Timely processing
 - c. Approval of plans
 - d. Scheduling inspections
 - e. Treatment of inspectors
2. Work completed without permits
3. Public challenges
4. Reforms

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Bill 22-0140R

Analysis by: Jennifer L. Coates

Direct Inquiries to: 410-396-1260

Analysis Date: March 2, 2023
