
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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July 27, 2023

Honorable President
Members of the City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary
409 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: Council Bill 23-0175R – Informational Hearing – Parity in Women’s Sports

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 23-0175R. The bill invites representatives from the Baltimore City Public School System and other relevant stakeholders to brief the City Council on the accessibility and resources available to women’s sports in relation to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 USC § 1681 et seq. (“Title IX”), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities in all public and private elementary and secondary schools, school districts, colleges, and universities receiving any Federal funds.

On line 11 of the bill the word “[populations?]” appears with a question mark in brackets following the word “classes.” Council Bill 23-0175R should be amended to delete the bracketed word.

In general, Art. III, §9 of the City Charter and City Code Art. 1, §1-4 give the City Council authority to study or investigate the operation of City agencies and to make recommendations for the more effective operation of the agencies. Article III, §9 of the Charter requires department heads, municipal officers not embraced in a department, and members of commissions and boards to appear before the City Council if so requested to participate in the discussion of matters relating to their respective departments, offices, commissions, or boards.

The General Assembly created a joint partnership between the City and State to improve the public school system in the City. See MD Education Art., § 4-303(a). Under this system the Mayor and General Assembly jointly appoint members to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. See MD Fisc. Note, 2002 Sess. H.B. 853, pp. 2-3. The Board of School Commissioners is governed by State law. Accordingly, the Council may only request that a representative of the Board of School Commissioners participate in the informational hearing.

Additionally, provisions of federal and State law governing students and schools may limit the information that can be disclosed regarding the topic of this informational hearing.

Council Bill 23-0175R is an appropriate resolution to initiate this process and request the specified officials to attend to provide information on the accessibility and resources available to women's sports in relation to Title IX. The Law Department approves Council Bill 23-0175R for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,



Michele Toth
Assistant Solicitor

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