
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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October 24, 2024

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 24-0590 – Zoning – Sign Regulations – C-5-DC Zoning District –

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 24-0590 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would amend table 17-201 to add Freestanding Pole signs as permitted in the C-5-DC district only in an Area of Special Signage Control within that district. The maximum size, height and quantity of signs are provided, and a percentage deviation of these metrics permitted in an Area of Special Signage Control.

The City Council must consider the following when evaluating changes to the text of the City's Zoning Code (Article 32 of the Baltimore City Code):

- (1) the amendment's consistency with the City's Comprehensive Master Plan;
- (2) whether the amendment would promote the public health, safety, and welfare;
- (3) the amendment's consistency with the intent and general regulations of this Code;
- (4) whether the amendment would correct an error or omission, clarify existing requirements, or effect a change in policy; and
- (5) the extent to which the amendment would create nonconformities.

Baltimore City Code, Art. 32, § 5-508(c). The Planning Report commented on each of these five factors.

Any bill that authorizes a change in the text of the Zoning Code is a "legislative authorization," which requires that certain procedures be followed in the bill's passage, including a public hearing. Baltimore City Code, Art. 32, §§ 5-501; 5-507; 5-601(a). Certain notice requirements apply to the bill. Baltimore City Code, Art. 32, §§ 5-601(b)(1), (c), (e). The bill must be referred to certain City agencies, which are obligated to review the bill in a specified manner. Baltimore City Code, Art. 32, §§ 5-504, 5-506. Finally, certain limitations on the City Council's ability to amend the bill apply. Baltimore City Code, Art. 32, § 5-507(c).

Assuming all the procedural requirements are met, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hilary Ruley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hilary" being more prominent than the last name "Ruley".

Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony M. Thompson, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
Michelle Toth, Assistant Solicitor
Desiree Lucky, Assistant Solicitor