

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 15-0241R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Kraft, Henry, Holton, Stokes, Branch, Scott, Middleton, Welch,
Clarke, Curran, Spector, Reisinger, President Young

Introduced and read first time: July 20, 2015

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Public Works

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Request for State Action – Ban Hydraulic Fracturing in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of supporting the passage of a statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing in
4 Maryland.

5 **Recitals**

6 Exposure to the chemicals used or released in hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic
7 fracturing-related activities may pose a widespread and significant risk to public health, safety,
8 and the environment.

9 Hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic fracturing-related activities can involve the use of high
10 volumes of chemicals, some of which are known to be carcinogenic, neurotoxic, endocrine
11 disruptors, or could otherwise be harmful to human health.

12 Hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic fracturing-related activities use millions of gallons of
13 freshwater per well, which are then contaminated by chemicals, salts, and potentially radioactive
14 materials.

15 Pollution caused by hydraulic fracturing and fracking-related activities threatens the
16 long-term well-being of communities. Clear evidence exists that fracking diminishes property
17 values, harms existing tourism-related businesses, and disrupts economic sustainability by
18 forcing reliance on a “boom/bust” economic order. Fracking is also known to jeopardize air and
19 water quality on which all communities depend.

20 Hydraulic fracturing irreversibly industrializes pristine rural communities, prohibiting their
21 ability to rely on farming or ecotourism after the process of extracting gas has finished.

22 Hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic fracturing-related activities result in the emission of
23 greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, which drives climate change. It is
24 irresponsible for a state to further invest in an industry that will exacerbate the impacts of climate
25 change.

26 As an urban center, and a port city, Baltimore has high potential for being heavily impacted
27 by climate change.

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

Council Bill 15-0241R

1 Emerging scientific research confirms that hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic fracturing
2 related activities are inherently risky. There is no scientific research supporting claims that it can
3 be carried out in a way that reduces health and environmental risks to an acceptable level.

4 The final report of the Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative concedes that implementing
5 “best management practices” cannot eliminate the risks involved in hydraulic fracturing and that
6 many gaps remain in the information with which it was working.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That Council
8 supports the passage of a statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing in Maryland.

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the
10 Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the
11 Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House
12 Speaker, the Mayor, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.