


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Niles R. Ford, PhD, Chief of Fire Department <i>AFD</i> <i>cf</i>	CITY OF BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Baltimore City Fire Department 401 East Fayette St. _21202		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #18-0178 Response to		

TO **The Honorable Bernard C. Young, President
And All Members of the Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 408**

DATE: January 29, 2018

For the purpose of excepting hookah lounges from the City's indoor-smoking restrictions, subject to certain conditions; repealing two obsolete exceptions that have been preempted by more stringent State law and, as such, are invalid; and generally relating to the operation of hookah lounges.

The proposed legislation would provide for- excepting hookah lounges from the City's indoor smoking restrictions, subject to certain conditions; repealing two obsolete exceptions that have been preempted by more stringent State law and, as such are invalid; and generally relating to the operation of hookah lounges.

The Fire Department does not support City Council Bill 18-0178. We ask that consideration be given to the adoption of the following conditions as they are written:

A hookah pipe bowl should be considered open burning

Interconnected smoke detectors shall be installed in every room, with an approved notification system.

A minimum 2A-20 BC extinguisher shall be installed in the area of the hookah pipes and the coal lighting area.

Carbon Monoxide detectors shall be installed in every room.

Coals shall be lit by an electric burner and not by an open flame.

Coals that are being transported from the lighting area to the smoking area shall be contained in an approved noncombustible container.

Hookah pipes shall be located and positioned in such a manner as to prevent overturning.

Wind covers shall be used over the coals when placed on the hookah pipe.

Hookah pipes shall be placed on a noncombustible surface, with a 36 inch clearance around the pipe.

Disposal, use, or handling of ashes and coals shall comply with sections 305.1 and 305.2 of the International Fire Code.

All Hookah establishments shall be equipped with fire sprinklers, be constructed of noncombustible materials, and utilize only Class A interior finishes.

Furniture shall be constructed of a fire retardant material.

The occupancy shall be limited to "B" use only (not assembly, or over 49 people).

The occupancy shall have an approved ventilation system that:
does not recirculate room air.

Has 100% exhaust

All make up air is to be brought in from outside of the structure.

The occupancy shall conform to all existing fire codes as defined in the 2015 edition of the International Fire Code.