


 on behalf of

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cennamo, Budget Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4774		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0019-Baltimore City Office of LGBTQ Affairs		

TO

DATE:

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

April 7, 2021

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 21-0019, Baltimore City Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the purpose of which is to establish the Office of LGBTQ Affairs and formally establish the LGBTQ Commission.

Background

Currently, the City of Baltimore has an active lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Commission, which was established by former Mayor Catherine Pugh under Executive Order 18-01, and a Senior Advisor to the Mayor on LGBTQ Affairs. Under this legislation, an Office of LGBTQ Affairs would be established and tasked with developing and implementing City policies and programs related to issues affecting LGBTQ. The Office would coordinate with City agencies to improve access to City services and safety for LGBTQ people.

In addition, the legislation would establish the LGBTQ Commission in law. the Commission would be comprised of 14 to 25 members appointed by the Mayor, with 2 members nominated by the City Council President and 2 members nominated by the Comptroller. The Commission will meet on a monthly basis and Commission members will serve without compensation, but are eligible to submit reimbursement for costs related to their duties, such as parking.

The cities of Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. have similar offices under the Mayor's Office. Philadelphia's Office of LGBT Affairs is part of the Mayor's Office Diversity and Inclusion Program and Washington D.C.'s Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ Affairs) is part of the Office of Community Affairs.

Fiscal Impact

The Department of Finance anticipates a fiscal impact of approximately \$38,603.

Expense	Cost
Salary Reclassification	\$30,000
Other Personnel Costs	\$8,603
Total	\$38,603

This fiscal analysis assumes that the Office would be established under the Mayor's Office and budgeted as a new activity in Service 125: Executive Direction and Control, based on the models of other jurisdictions. In addition, Finance assumes that the Special Advisor on LGBTQ Affairs position would be transferred to the Office and reclassified to be the Director of the Office of LGBTQ Affairs. The reclassification of the position costs approximately \$38,603, \$30,000 for salary and \$8,603 for other personnel costs. Costs for supplies, such as printing, postage, and office supplies, are budgeted centrally in Service 125.

Other Consideration

Establishing of an Office of LGBTQ Affairs could benefit LGBTQ residents, and non-LGBTQ residents, by creating an entity that is formally working with City agencies to ensure equity in policies and services for LGBTQ residents, as well as supportive of and responsive to LGBTQ communities across the City.

Conclusion

This legislation would establish an Office of LGBTQ Affairs and formalize the LGBTQ Commission at minimal cost to the City.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 21-0019.

cc: Henry Raymond
Natasha Mehu
Nina Themelis