



**HEARING NOTES**

**Bill: 21-0039**

**Local Hiring – Employment Plan**

**Committee:** Education, Workforce, and Youth  
**Chaired by:** Robert Stokes, Sr.

**Hearing Date:** Thursday, April 15, 2021  
**Time (Beginning):** 10:00 AM  
**Time (Ending):** 11:00 AM  
**Location:** Virtual “WebEx” Meeting  
**Total Attendance:** Approximately 30

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Robert Stokes, Sr.      James Torrence  
John Bullock          Sharon Green Middleton  
Antonio Glover        Zeke Cohen  
Phylicia Porter

Bill Synopsis in the file? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?.....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

**Major Speakers**

*(This is not an attendance record.)*

- Jason Perkins-Cohen, Mayor’s Office of Employment Development
- Elena DiPietro, Law Department
- Mackenzie Garvin, Mayor’s Office of Employment Development
- Mara James, Department of Finance

## Major Issues Discussed

1. The chairman gave opening remarks and expressed the importance of local hiring.
2. Several city agency representatives testified, the Department of Finance opposed the bill and the other two agencies, Mayor's Office of Employment Development and the Law Department raised concerns and expressed the need to amend the bill as is. Some topics of discussion and/or concerns expressed were:
  - **Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED)**
    - Supports local hiring and talked about the duties and functions of their Office
    - **Concerns raised:**
      - Want to make sure we (the city) is not "clouding" the right information necessary to award contracts
      - Believes the bill as currently written:
        - Will slow the bidding process
        - Will create more work in the process
        - Will create more costs to contractors/bidders
        - Requires more positions (analysts) to review bids
        - Provides no penalties in the bill for non-compliance
        - May have unintended consequences
  - **Law Department**
    - Talked about the Department's proposed amendments and why the amendments were proposed
    - **Concerns raised:**
      - The bill as written could potential have City Charter issues
      - No penalties included in the bill
      - Bids being evaluated before going before the Board of Estimates – is of concern
      - Preferences could have constitutional issues on both the State and Federal levels
      - Some technical issues about understanding what bidders are required to do; the drafting and/or understanding of bill – is of concern
      - Oversight being administered by the Department of Finance instead of by the MOED – is of concern
  - **The Department of Finance**
    - Stood by their agency report – Opposes the bill
    - **Concerns raised:**
      - How the bill brings the Department into the process; believes the process should be under MOED
      - City is currently struggling to award contracts. The bill could harm same and creates additional reporting requirements
      - Implementation must be completed within thirty (30) days – is of concern
3. The committee/councilmembers asked questions, stated concerns and asked for clarification for some issues. Some highlights from same were:
  - **Comments:**
    - Wished a representative(s) from Baltimore City Community College had attended the hearing

- We need more innovative things to get people employed
  - Local hiring is important and is looking forward to reviewing the bill in its final state
  - Questions asked:
    - Can you (MOED) explain your current process for local hiring?
    - Given the current process, how many more analysts would you (MOED) need?  
**Answer: Approximately five (5)**
    - It is my understanding that your concern (MOED) is about requiring contractors/bidders to provide too much data to the point they don't want to bid. Can you talk a little more about what is considered too much data?
    - Getting folks back to work. Can you (MOED) talk about some of your plans for this?
  - **Requests made: \*\***
    - MOED Partnerships – Can you provide data to committee members regarding how MOED partners with Baltimore city schools? **Requested by member Middleton**
    - Provide a copy of the “Heat Map(s)” to all committee members. **Requested by Chairman Stokes**
4. The chairman gave closing remarks, stating the importance of local hiring. The hearing was called to recess and a work session is to be scheduled in the near future.

### Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes  No

If yes, describe.

1. See number three (3) above under “requests made.” \*\*

*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite Murray Currin, Committee Staff

Date: April 16, 2021

cc: Bill File  
OCS Electronic File



## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: <b>Council Bill</b> – Local Hiring – Employment Plan	Bill #: 21-0039
Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth	Chair: Robert Stokes, Sr.
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021	Time: 10:00 AM
Location: <b>WebEx Meeting</b>	

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY

First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	 Testify	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		See Hearing Notes					

\*NOTE: IF YOU ARE COMPENSATED OR INCUR EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BILL, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY ETHICS BOARD AS A LOBBYIST. REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AND IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/) OR CALL: 410-396-4730

# City of Baltimore

City Council  
City Hall, Room 408  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

## Meeting Agenda - Final

### Education Workforce and Youth

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Thursday, April 15, 2021

10:00 AM

Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, City Hall, 4th Floor

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21-0039

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

##### 21-0039

##### Local Hiring - Employment Plan

For the purpose of requiring certain contractors to create and submit to the Director of the Department of Finance initial employment plans to bid on government-assisted construction projects or contracts that receive government assistance totaling \$5 million or more; requiring the Director of the Department of Finance to score the bids using the Director's evaluation of the employment plan as 10% of a bidder's score; requiring the winning bidder to submit a revised employment plan to the Director of the Department of Finance with certain criteria; and conforming related provisions.

##### Sponsors:

Robert Stokes, Sr., President Nicholas J. Mosby, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Mark Conway, Eric T. Costello, Antonio Glover, Sharon Green Middleton, Phylcia Porter, James Torrence, Odette Ramos, Zeke Cohen, John T. Bullock

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**THIS VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**