

F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Commissioner	Health Department AGENCY REPORT	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject: Position:	21-0049 – Prohibited Disposals - Fines and Reporting (The Neighbors Against Predatory Dumping Act) FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

April 21, 2021

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill #21-0049, entitled, “Prohibited Disposals - Fines and Reporting (The Neighbors Against Predatory Dumping Act).” The purpose of this bill is to increase fines for illegal dumping and require the Health Commissioner to create an annual report regarding illegal dumping violations and compliance, among other provisions.

At present, the Ecology program within BCHD’s Environmental Health division is charged with illegal dumping enforcement throughout Baltimore City. This program has four inspectors whose capacity is very limited. In practice, illegal dumping enforcement often falls upon the Department of Housing and Community Development, which investigates dumping, places cameras to both deter and catch dumping, and prosecutes individuals for engaging in dumping.

In keeping with BCHD’s lack of capacity to enforce illegal dumping provisions within the Health Code, BCHD is not the proper custodian of the information sought to be included in 21-0049’s required annual report. Likewise, BCHD requests that the bill’s inclusion of § 7-635 either reference a different agency or be struck altogether.

BCHD understands community frustrations with illegal dumping throughout Baltimore City, which can often have implications for both health and maintaining peace within one’s community. Unfortunately, it is unclear whether increased fines and reporting can curb bad actors without additional resources dedicated toward enforcement. Regardless, with the understanding that more must be done to deter illegal dumping, BCHD requests a **favorable with amendments** report on Council Bill #21-0049.