



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 21-0034R **Version:** 0 **Name:** Informational Hearing - Baltimore City Broadband Expansion
Type: City Council Resolution **Status:** Withdrawn
File created: 3/8/2021 **In control:** Baltimore City Council
On agenda: **Final action:** 12/9/2021
Enactment date: **Enactment #:**

Title: Informational Hearing - Baltimore City Broadband Expansion
For the purpose of inviting the Baltimore City Department of Finance, the Comptroller, Baltimore City Information Technology, the Law Department, the Department of Transportation, and other relevant parties to discuss and present multiple options for broadband and high-speed data access within the City of Baltimore; discussing the City’s powers or limitations regarding broadband expansion with regard to State law as well as City contracts and franchises already in place and the possibility of creating a municipal broadband utility to assist citizens in their accessibility to broadband; discussing possible policy or legislative reforms, and any other relevant information of interest to the Baltimore City Council in order to bring Baltimore City’s broadband infrastructure and technology into the 21st Century.

Sponsors: Antonio Glover, Sharon Green Middleton, Kristerfer Burnett, John T. Bullock, Danielle N. McCray, Odette Ramos, James Torrence

Indexes: Broadband, Expansion, Informational Hearing

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. 21-0034R~1st Reader, 2. Law 21-0034R, 3. DOT 21-0034R

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
12/9/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Withdrawn	
3/11/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Mayor's Office of Information Technology	
3/11/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to City Solicitor	
3/11/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Dept. of Finance	
3/11/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Office of the Comptroller	
3/11/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Refer to Dept. of Transportation	
3/8/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Assigned	
3/8/2021	0	Baltimore City Council	Introduced	

*** Warning:** This is an unofficial, introductory copy of the bill.
The official copy considered by the City Council is the first reader copy.

Introductory*

**City of Baltimore
Council Bill R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Glover

A Resolution Entitled

A Council Resolution concerning

Informational Hearing - Baltimore City Broadband Expansion

For the purpose of inviting the Baltimore City Department of Finance, the Comptroller, Baltimore City Information Technology, the Law Department, the Department of Transportation, and other relevant parties to discuss and present multiple options for broadband and high-speed data access within the City of Baltimore; discussing the City's powers or limitations regarding broadband expansion with regard to State law as well as City contracts and franchises already in place and the possibility of creating a municipal broadband utility to assist citizens in their accessibility to broadband; discussing possible policy or legislative reforms, and any other relevant information of interest to the Baltimore City Council in order to bring Baltimore City's broadband infrastructure and technology into the 21st Century.

Recitals

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened our need and dependence on broadband services to participate in remote employment and education;

Whereas, the digital divide adversely disproportionately affects the predominately black and brown population in Baltimore, many of whom live below the federal poverty line;

Whereas, the majority of broadband service customers for high-speed data are customers of one provider due to the lack of City franchisees;

Whereas, broadband technology has changed significantly with 5G technology, which allows high-speed data transmissions over the air;

Whereas, the City's ownership of its underground conduit system creates opportunities for fiber optic cable based broadband;

Whereas, Comcast has plans to impose data caps and fees associated with exceeding those caps on internet service;

Whereas, prior sessions of the Baltimore City Council have expressed interest in starting a municipal broadband service as a public utility;

Whereas, the citizens of Baltimore are demanding more service options as more services rely on broadband and consumers are "cutting the cord";

Whereas, there is broad recognition from the Baltimore City Council and from local advocates that the process for finding providers and awarding franchises needs to be reformed to provide a competitive market that is necessary for regulating pricing; and

Whereas, the research and development of reforms for broadband expansion are possible and need to be discussed.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Baltimore, That the Council invites the Baltimore City Department of Finance, the Comptroller, Baltimore City Information Technology, the Law Department, the Department of Transportation, and other relevant parties to discuss and present multiple options for broadband and high speed data access within the City of Baltimore.

And be it further resolved, That it is the intention of the Council to use this informational hearing to discuss the City's powers or limitations regarding broadband expansion with regard to State law as well as City contracts and franchises already in place and the possibility of creating a municipal broadband utility to assist citizens in their accessibility to broadband; possible policy or legislative reforms; and any other relevant information of interest to the Baltimore City Council in order to bring Baltimore City's broadband infrastructure

and technology into the 21st Century.

And be it further resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Comptroller, the Director of Baltimore City Information Technology, the Director of Finance, the Acting City Solicitor, the Director of the Department of Transportation, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.