



Legislation Text

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INTRODUCTORY*

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning
Summer Jobs For Youth

FOR the purpose of supporting the efforts of the U.S. Conference of Mayors to bring attention to the importance of summer youth employment and joining its call to all levels of government, and the private sector, to do their part to ensure that our youth have the employment opportunities they need to prepare themselves for a brighter future.

Recitals

WHEREAS, Baltimore City is committed to promoting the wellbeing and positive development of its, and the nation's, youth.

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors, and the United States Conference of Mayors, have long advocated for strong summer jobs programs.

WHEREAS, across the nation young people face an employment crisis; and the unemployment rate for young adults between the ages of 16 24 is more than twice the national unemployment rate.

WHEREAS, last June, the month when youth employment usually peaks, the unemployment rate among youth between the ages of 1624 was 16.2 percent.

WHEREAS, unemployment rates for African American youth is 31.9 percent and Latino youth is 17.6 percent; and unemployment rates for young adults in some major cities and rural areas are more than 40 percent.

WHEREAS, the value of work experience for youth has been well documented, and national studies have demonstrated that youth employment has positive impacts on high school graduation rates, collegegoing rates, and future earnings.

WHEREAS, summer jobs programs have the added benefit of reducing violence in cities and communities.

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, youth who miss out on an early work experience are more likely to endure future unemployment.

WHEREAS, the City of Baltimore is committed to having a nationally recognized summer jobs program that can serve as a model for connecting youth with meaningful work experience and helping youth to become financially capable, confident, and successful.

WHEREAS, summer jobs programs provide teachable moments for youth receiving a paycheck to learn how to manage their finances.

WHEREAS, many cities have invested local funds to match limited federal funding and conduct summer jobs programs.

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2014 Congressional budget did not contain funding for summer jobs programs.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has urged Congress to restore its long term commitment for a strong summer jobs program, by providing funding for year round youth activities and by ensuring that youth summer jobs are part of any Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization, or by establishing separate ongoing funding for youth summer jobs programs.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has called on business leaders to:

- Invest in workforce education and career exploration counseling for high school students;
- Encourage employees to participate in workforce development programs available in high schools;
- Work with education and local leaders to develop appropriate curriculum that is responsive to workforce trends; and
- Collaborate with state education and workforce leaders to identify highgrowth job trends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, that the Council supports the efforts of the U.S. Conference of Mayors to bring attention to the importance of summer youth employment and joins its call to all levels of government, and the private sector, to do their part to ensure that our youth have the employment opportunities they need to prepare themselves for a brighter future.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Maryland delegation to the 113th Congress, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

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