

HOUSE BILL 317

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C8

1998 Regular Session
8r0826
CF 8r1154

By: **Delegates Rawlings, Dypski, Hammen, Krysiak, and Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1998

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 29, 1998

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City Charter Amendment - Public Subsidies for Hotels and**
3 **Lodging Establishments**

4 FOR the purpose of amending Article II of the Charter of Baltimore City, to prohibit
5 the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore from providing a direct or indirect
6 public subsidy of a certain amount for the construction of one or more hotels or
7 other lodging establishments at certain sites in Baltimore City unless the
8 subsidy has been approved by local referendum for each hotel or lodging
9 establishment; requiring a referendum to be structured in a certain manner if a
10 public subsidy involves more than one establishment; providing for the
11 submission of a certain question to the legally qualified voters of Baltimore City
12 by referendum at a certain general election; defining certain terms; and
13 generally relating to public subsidies for hotels and lodging establishments in
14 Baltimore City.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 The Charter of Baltimore City
17 Article II - General Powers
18 Section (1)
19 (1996 Edition, as amended)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1 **The Charter of Baltimore City**

2 Article II - General Powers

3 The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall have full power and authority to
 4 exercise all of the powers heretofore or hereafter granted to it by the Constitution of
 5 Maryland or by any Public General or Public Local Laws of the State of Maryland;
 6 and in particular, without limitation upon the foregoing, shall have power by
 7 ordinance, or such other method as may be provided for in its Charter, subject to the
 8 provisions of said Constitution and Public General Laws:

9 (1) (A) To regulate the location, construction, use, operation, maintenance
 10 and removal of buildings and structures, or any part thereof, of every [kind] KIND,
 11 EXCEPT THAT A DIRECT OR INDIRECT PUBLIC SUBSIDY OF \$5 MILLION OR MORE FOR
 12 THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE OR MORE HOTELS OR LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS AT
 13 THE INNER HARBOR EAST SITE OR THE BALTIMORE CITY LOT SITE MAY NOT BE
 14 MADE UNLESS THE SUBSIDY HAS BEEN APPROVED BY A REFERENDUM OF THE
 15 LEGALLY QUALIFIED VOTERS OF BALTIMORE CITY FOR EACH HOTEL OR LODGING
 16 ESTABLISHMENT. IF A PUBLIC SUBSIDY INVOLVES MORE THAN ONE
 17 ESTABLISHMENT, A REFERENDUM ON A PUBLIC SUBSIDY UNDER THIS SECTION
 18 SHALL PROVIDE A SEPARATE BALLOT QUESTION FOR EACH PROJECT LOCATION
 19 UNDER CONSIDERATION SO THAT THE VOTERS CAN APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE A
 20 PUBLIC SUBSIDY FOR INDIVIDUAL LOCATIONS.

21 (B) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
 22 MEANINGS INDICATED.

23 (2) "BALTIMORE CITY LOT SITE" MEANS BALTIMORE CITY LOTS
 24 6A/6B AND 7A/7B, WHICH IS THE AREA OF BALTIMORE CITY BOUNDED BY WEST PRATT
 25 STREET ON THE NORTH, WEST CAMDEN STREET ON THE SOUTH, SOUTH HOWARD
 26 STREET ON THE EAST, AND SOUTH PACA STREET ON THE WEST SEPARATED BY
 27 SOUTH EUTAW STREET.

28 (3) "INNER HARBOR EAST SITE" MEANS THE AREA OF BALTIMORE
 29 CITY BOUNDED BY FLEET STREET ON THE NORTH, ALICEANNA STREET ON THE
 30 SOUTH, FELICIA STREET ON THE EAST, AND EAST FALLS AVENUE ON THE WEST.

31 (4) "PUBLIC SUBSIDY" INCLUDES AN APPROPRIATION, TAX
 32 BENEFIT, OR ANY OTHER FORM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Board of
 34 Supervisors of Elections for Baltimore City shall do those things necessary and proper
 35 to provide for and hold a referendum required by Article II, § (1) of the Charter of
 36 Baltimore City, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

37 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
 38 effect June 1, 1998.

