

SENATE BILL 417

Unofficial Copy  
C8

1998 Regular Session  
8r1154  
CF 8r0826

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By: **Senator Sfikas**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 1998

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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A BILL ENTITLED

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; providing for the submission of a certain question to the legally  
10 qualified voters of Baltimore City by referendum at a certain general election;  
11 defining certain terms; and generally relating to public subsidies for hotels and  
12 lodging establishments in Baltimore City.

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

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

20 **The Charter of Baltimore City**

21 Article II - General Powers

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

1 (1) (A) To regulate the location, construction, use, operation, maintenance  
2 and removal of buildings and structures, or any part thereof, of every [kind] KIND,  
3 EXCEPT THAT A DIRECT OR INDIRECT PUBLIC SUBSIDY OF \$5 MILLION OR MORE FOR  
4 THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE OR MORE HOTELS OR LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS AT  
5 THE INNER HARBOR EAST SITE OR THE BALTIMORE CITY LOT SITE MAY NOT BE  
6 MADE UNLESS THE SUBSIDY HAS BEEN APPROVED BY A REFERENDUM OF THE  
7 LEGALLY QUALIFIED VOTERS OF BALTIMORE CITY FOR EACH HOTEL OR LODGING  
8 ESTABLISHMENT.

9 (B) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE  
10 MEANINGS INDICATED.

11 (2) "BALTIMORE CITY LOT SITE" MEANS BALTIMORE CITY LOTS  
12 6A/6B AND 7A/7B, WHICH IS THE AREA OF BALTIMORE CITY BOUNDED BY WEST PRATT  
13 STREET ON THE NORTH, WEST CAMDEN STREET ON THE SOUTH, SOUTH HOWARD  
14 STREET ON THE EAST, AND SOUTH PACA STREET ON THE WEST SEPARATED BY  
15 SOUTH EUTAW STREET.

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

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

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

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