



BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
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HB 79

January 28, 2020

TO: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 79 – Maryland Technology Internship Program

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 79.

The City of Baltimore is a large organization of thousands of employees, a significant percentage of which are retirement ready or retirement eligible. As the citizens of Baltimore trust us to carry out the responsibility of delivering low cost, efficient and effective public services, our agencies regularly seek out opportunities to innovate and improve. One agency in particular—the City's Department of General Services (DGS)—has partnered with the Maryland Technology Internship Program (MTIP) to support of a DGS project-based government operations fellowship program. This partnership is focused on improving competitiveness against private institutions who have fewer financial and administrative constraints, who are our direct competitors for talent.

The DGS-MTIP partnership has helped DGS recruit hard to attract, hard to hire technical talent to drive critical projects and programs. Further, the partnership has helped DGS recruit a diverse staff, build a pipeline to public service and leverage limited municipal funding. The BCA recognizes that the qualities that make an excellent public servant are not calculable solely by grade point average. HB 79 acknowledges this fact, and its passage will help address a critical technical skills gap adversely impacting government operations and service delivery in Baltimore City and in other municipal governments across the State. Passing this legislation will aid in the important work of developing the next generation of public servants, and increase access to opportunity.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 79.

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