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SB 574

February 18, 2020

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings and Budget & Taxation Committees
FROM: Matthew Stegman, Deputy Director of Government Relations
RE: Senate Bill 574 – District Court - Jobs Court Pilot Program

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Chair Smith, Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committees, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill 574 **with amendment**.

As amended by 233724/1, SB 574 creates a jobs court pilot program within the Baltimore City District Court. The program is administered and monitored jointly by the court and the Baltimore Workforce Development Board. The bill mandates the governor appropriate \$250,000 to the board annually to entities that participate in the pilot program. The aim of the program is to reduce recidivism by allowing defendants to participate in a full time job training and placement program as a condition of probation.

The BCA takes an "all of the above" approach to reducing crime in Baltimore City. This includes strategies that provide real economic opportunity to those who might otherwise be vulnerable to recidivism. If the pilot program established in this bill proves successful it may serve as a model for job training-based diversion programs elsewhere in the state.

We respectfully request a **favorable with amendment** report on Senate Bill 574.

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