



BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 36

January 16, 2020

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 36 – Juvenile Proceedings - Fines, Fees, and Costs

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Atterbeary, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 36. If enacted, HB 36 would repeal provisions in law authorizing a juvenile court to impose a series of fines, court costs and attorney's fees to a juvenile or the juvenile's parent, in proceedings other than Child In Need of Assistance (CINA) proceedings. Additionally, upon the effective date of this legislation, the balance of any existing court-ordered fines, fees, or costs previously assessed become unenforceable and uncollectable and the related portions of any existing judgment would be vacated.

Baltimore City is home to several fine governmental programs and organizations who focus efforts on providing opportunities for our children and youth to grow into their potential, despite the structural and socioeconomic barriers they face. Whether it be City's highly successful Youth Works program that endeavors to fund summer employment opportunities in partnership with local businesses, or the hard work of Baltimore's Promise or the Job Opportunities Task Force, to name only two of the many excellent organizations, there is a strong tradition of local, grassroots efforts to remove barriers to the success of the City's young people.

Moreover, upon ascending to the Office of Mayor of Baltimore, one of the very first decisions Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young made was to create a Mayor's Office of

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Children and Family Success.¹ Through this office, for the first time, a Baltimore City Administration is coordinating every available community asset and government resource to position Baltimore's children to reach their full potential, from directly inside the Mayor's executive office.

In the same vein, HB 36 seeks to remove potentially punitive economic barriers to young people all throughout the State of Maryland, and its aims are consistent with the approach and philosophy of the Baltimore City Administration. Even though it is the BCA's understanding that in most cases the juvenile courts do not impose any of these penalties, fines or fees under the portions of the code this bill would repeal, it is proper time to remove these antiquated vestiges of previous theories of the law from the books. The lives of many of Baltimore City's young people will benefit from the passage of this bill.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 36.

¹ See "Mayor Young Creates New Office of Children & Family Success" ("I have always been a champion for Baltimore's young people, and during my mayoral administration I will continue to make it a priority to put children first. And we will do that with an office solely focused on our young people leading the way." -Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young). Mayor's Press Release, May 16, 2019 *available at* <https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/news/press-releases/2019-05-16-mayor-young-creates-new-office-children-family-success> (last accessed 1-16-2020)