



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 1347

March 11, 2021

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Mayor Brandon M. Scott, City of Baltimore

RE: House Bill 1347 – Real Property - Impermissible Restrictions on Use - Portable Basketball Apparatuses

POSITION: Support

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1347.

HB1347 would prohibit unreasonable limitations on the location and use of a portable basketball apparatus on property in which an individual owns or has exclusive right to use. Certain historic properties would be exempted.

As a life-long athlete and sports advocate, I can attest to the benefits of sports in the lives of our youth. Basketball promotes the mental and physical wellbeing of a child, helps them develop both teamwork and leadership skills, and is a safe, low-cost means of healthy fun and entertainment. Creating unreasonable restrictions or limitations on the use of a portable basketball apparatus on someone's personal property that are not required for other sports or sport apparatuses is an injustice to youth across the State.

In these unprecedented times of change, young people need support and encouragement to safely engage in recreational activities without the fear of discrimination or intimidation.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 1347.