



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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

HB 0130

January 12, 2021

TO: Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations
RE: HOUSE BILL 0130 – Commission on LGBTQ Affairs
POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Shane E. Pendergrass, Vice Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 0130.

HB 0130 establishes a Commission on LGBTQ Affairs within the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. The commission would be tasked with representing, identifying and communicating the interests and priorities of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities across the State, and collaborating with stakeholders to advance policy and program initiatives in line with those priorities. The fifteen-member body will be required include at least two (2) transgender members and shall be representative of the many identities found within the State's diverse LGBTQ community.

The Commission on LGBTQ Affairs will be a key partner in addressing the harms and inequities which are an undeserved yet consistent reality for Marylanders who bravely and peacefully live beyond our society's developed norms and expectations about gender and sexuality. Establishing this Commission is an important signal of affirmation and inclusion, and an important step in ensuring all Marylanders can experience a high quality of life, free from stigma, shame or fear.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 0130.