



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
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HB0196

January 21, 2025

TO: Members of the Health and Government Operation Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 196 - State Government - Department of Veterans and Military Families - Board and Commission - Membership and Oversight

POSITION: Support

Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 196.

HB 196 would eliminate the State War Memorial Commission and instead put State oversight of the War Memorial Building under the State Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF).

Currently, the War Memorial Commission has oversight for purposes of setting regulations for the building. This bill proposes to move that responsibility to the DVMFs and eliminate the commission.

This bill does not change the City's current operations in the building. The Baltimore City Department of General Services (DGS) will continue to run the building and continue to utilize the existing appropriation with the same staff. Ownership will remain shared by the city and state as it is. Additionally, costs related to operating the building will continue to be shared by the city and state.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 196.