



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

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

**HB0307**

March 4, 2026

**TO:** Members of the Economic Matters Committee  
**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
**RE:** House Bill 307 - Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund - Alterations

**POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian and members of the committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 307 **with amendments**.

HB 307 would change several elements of the way that the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund ("the Fund") is disbursed, the purposes and uses of the Fund, which entity is responsible for administering the Fund, which types of entities may receive funding, and what categories of use would qualify for funding.

The Fund was established as a part of the Cannabis Reform Act of 2023 to provide funding to local jurisdictions to address the disproportionate impact that the enforcement of cannabis laws had on communities across the state. The Office of Social Equity was required to conduct an annual statewide survey to recommend the categories of use for the Fund. HB 307 mandates that jurisdictions use their portion of funding for specific categories as defined within the legislation such as housing and homelessness prevention, transportation improvements, community child care and recreational services, programs that would benefit individuals and families impacted by incarceration, and other purposes.

The BCA supports the changes proposed in HB 307 that would no longer require that all funding be directed to community-based organizations and that local jurisdictions would have more latitude in determining how funding should be disbursed, however, we do not believe that there should still be such stringent limits on how funding must be allocated. Local jurisdictions receive such a small proportion of revenue derived from the cannabis tax and should be able to determine how those funds are best spent within the jurisdiction so long as those uses support the intent of the Fund and those uses are accounted for within the planning and reporting requirements. While the BCA has no concerns with the additional reporting requirements as outlined in the bill, the additional analysis and data collection may slightly increase the operational and administrative costs to the City. We look forward to further collaborating with the Office of Social Equity on the disbursement of the Fund.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable with amendments** report on HB 307.