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MAYOR

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SB0249

February 5, 2026

TO: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

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

RE: Senate Bill 249 – Tobacco Product Licensees - Additional Licensure for Electronic Smoking Devices

POSITION: Favorable

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** SB 249.

Under current law, retailers wishing to sell electronic smoking devices must obtain a license to do so; however, if the applicant currently holds a Cigarette or Other Tobacco Products (OTP) Wholesale or Manufacturer License, the applicant is not required to apply for an Electronic Smoking Devices (ESDs) License and may sell such products under their existing OTP license. Because of this, it is difficult to quantify the number of retailers selling electronic smoking devices and supplies.

SB 249 will eliminate the reliance on the existing OTP license and will require, at no additional cost, that retailers obtain a separate license for the sale of electronic smoking devices. This will help the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission – as well as local enforcement agencies, such as the Baltimore City Health Department – to identify where electronic smoking devices are sold. In turn, identifying where electronic smoking devices are sold will enhance the ability to target enforcement efforts against underage sales of electronic smoking devices.

As such, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 249.