

SENATE BILL 672

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CF 5lr3390

By: **Senator M. Washington (By Request – Baltimore City Administration)**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Economic Development – Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment**
3 **and Operating Authority – Established**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment
5 and Operating Authority to govern the renovation, revitalization, and ongoing
6 maintenance and operations of the Baltimore Convention site and the marketing of
7 Baltimore City as a tourist destination in a certain manner; and generally relating
8 to the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Economic Development

11 Section 12–1201 through 12–1210 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 12.
12 Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority”

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

15 Preamble

16 WHEREAS, Chapter 635 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024 established the
17 Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority Task Force
18 to, among other things, study and make recommendations concerning the membership,
19 purpose, and function of an entity or strategy to govern the renovation, revitalization,
20 financing, and ongoing maintenance and management of the Baltimore Convention site
21 and certain surrounding areas; and

22 WHEREAS, In accordance with Chapter 635 of the Acts of the General Assembly of
23 2024, the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority
24 Task Force reported its findings and recommendations to the Mayor of Baltimore City, the
25 Governor, and the General Assembly; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



WHEREAS, The report recommends the establishment of a joint authority to govern the Baltimore Convention site and Baltimore City destination marketing organization; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds that, for the benefit of the people of the State, it is necessary to establish the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Economic Development

SUBTITLE 12. BALTIMORE CONVENTION AND TOURISM REDEVELOPMENT AND OPERATING AUTHORITY.

12–1201.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “AUTHORITY” MEANS THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION AND TOURISM REDEVELOPMENT AND OPERATING AUTHORITY.

(C) “BALTIMORE CONVENTION SITE” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10–601 OF THIS ARTICLE.

12–1202.

(A) THERE IS A BALTIMORE CONVENTION AND TOURISM REDEVELOPMENT AND OPERATING AUTHORITY.

(B) THE AUTHORITY IS A BODY POLITIC AND CORPORATE AND IS AN INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE STATE.

(C) THE EXERCISE BY THE AUTHORITY OF A POWER UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IS THE PERFORMANCE OF AN ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTION.

12–1203.

(A) THE AUTHORITY CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

(1) ONE MEMBER, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, WHO IS NOT AN ELECTED OFFICIAL AND IS A RESIDENT OF OR REPRESENTS A

BUSINESS THAT OPERATES IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, BALTIMORE CITY,
BALTIMORE COUNTY, OR HOWARD COUNTY;

(2) ONE MEMBER, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, WHO
IS NOT AN ELECTED OFFICIAL AND IS A RESIDENT OF OR REPRESENTS A BUSINESS
THAT OPERATES IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, BALTIMORE CITY, BALTIMORE
COUNTY, OR HOWARD COUNTY;

(3) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY IN
BALTIMORE CITY, APPOINTED BY THE RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND;

(4) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOTEL INDUSTRY IN BALTIMORE
CITY, APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND HOTEL LODGING ASSOCIATION;

(5) NINE MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR OF BALTIMORE CITY,
FROM THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT OF BALTIMORE CITY, AS DEFINED BY THE
ZONING CODE OF BALTIMORE CITY, OF WHOM:

(I) ONE SHALL BE AN ATTORNEY;

(II) ONE SHALL HAVE EXPERIENCE IN THE FINANCIAL SERVICES
INDUSTRY;

(III) ONE SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF A PROFESSIONAL
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL FRANCHISE THAT IS A LESSEE OF A STADIUM IN
BALTIMORE CITY, OR A PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL (NFL) FRANCHISE THAT IS A
LESSEE OF A STADIUM IN BALTIMORE CITY; AND

(IV) ONE SHALL HAVE EXPERIENCE IN REAL ESTATE
DEVELOPMENT; AND

(6) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH
THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE:

(I) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A BUSINESS THAT OPERATES IN
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, BALTIMORE CITY, BALTIMORE COUNTY, OR HOWARD
COUNTY; AND

(II) A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ORGANIZED LABOR GROUP
ASSOCIATED WITH THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION SITE OR THE TOURISM INDUSTRY
IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, BALTIMORE CITY, BALTIMORE COUNTY, OR HOWARD
COUNTY.

(B) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER OF THE AUTHORITY IS 4 YEARS.

(2) THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS ON JULY 1, 2025.

(3) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER OF THE AUTHORITY CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

(4) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

(C) THE MAYOR OF BALTIMORE CITY SHALL DESIGNATE A CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS APPOINTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A)(5) OF THIS SECTION.

(D) A MEMBER OF THE AUTHORITY MAY BE REMOVED FOR INCOMPETENCE, MISCONDUCT, OR FAILURE TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE POSITION BY:

(1) THE GOVERNOR, IF APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

(2) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, IF APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT;

(3) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, IF APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER;

(4) THE APPOINTING ASSOCIATION, IF APPOINTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A)(3) OR (4) OF THIS SECTION; OR

(5) THE MAYOR OF BALTIMORE CITY, IF APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR.

12-1204.

(A) THE AUTHORITY SHALL DETERMINE THE TIMES AND PLACES OF ITS MEETINGS.

(B) (1) NINE MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY ARE A QUORUM.

(2) ACTION BY THE AUTHORITY REQUIRES THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF AT LEAST NINE MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(C) A MEMBER OF THE AUTHORITY:

1 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE
2 AUTHORITY; BUT

3 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
4 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

5 12-1205.

6 THE AUTHORITY MAY EMPLOY OR RETAIN, EITHER AS EMPLOYEES OR AS
7 INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, CONSULTANTS, ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS,
8 ACCOUNTANTS, ATTORNEYS, FINANCIAL EXPERTS, CONSTRUCTION EXPERTS AND
9 PERSONNEL, SUPERINTENDENTS, MANAGERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL
10 PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL, AND AGENTS AS THE AUTHORITY CONSIDERS
11 NECESSARY, AND SET THEIR COMPENSATION.

12 12-1206.

13 THE AUTHORITY SHALL:

14 (1) DETERMINE THE CHARACTER OF ANY RENOVATION,
15 REVITALIZATION, OR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS RELATING TO THE BALTIMORE
16 CONVENTION SITE;

17 (2) ENTER INTO ANY AGREEMENTS, LEASES, PARTNERSHIPS, OR
18 CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO RENOVATE, REVITALIZE, MAINTAIN, AND MANAGE THE
19 BALTIMORE CONVENTION SITE, AUTHORITY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY ASSETS, AND
20 ANY OTHER CONTIGUOUS OR NEARBY REAL PROPERTY ASSET THAT THE AUTHORITY
21 IDENTIFIES AND OVER WHICH THE AUTHORITY OBTAINS SITE CONTROL;

22 (3) ANALYZE AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAYOR AND
23 CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY, THE GOVERNOR, AND THE GENERAL
24 ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE SUSTAINABILITY, RENOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION
25 OF AND FUNDING STREAMS TO RENOVATE, REVITALIZE, OR DEVELOP THE
26 BALTIMORE CONVENTION SITE, AUTHORITY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY ASSETS, AND
27 ANY OTHER CONTIGUOUS OR NEARBY REAL PROPERTY ASSET THAT THE AUTHORITY
28 IDENTIFIES AND OVER WHICH THE AUTHORITY OBTAINS SITE CONTROL;

29 (4) FIX AND COLLECT RATES, RENTALS, FEES, AND CHARGES FOR
30 SERVICES REQUIRED TO SUCCESSFULLY OPERATE, MAINTAIN, AND MANAGE THE
31 BALTIMORE CONVENTION SITE OR ANY OTHER AUTHORITY-OWNED OR
32 CONTROLLED REAL PROPERTY ASSETS;

(5) ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION SITE OR ANY OTHER AUTHORITY-OWNED OR CONTROLLED REAL PROPERTY ASSETS;

(6) ADOPT BYLAWS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE AUTHORITY'S BUSINESS, INCLUDING A PROCESS TO APPOINT AN ADVISORY BOARD TO THE AUTHORITY;

(7) GOVERN THE STRATEGIC AND CAPITAL PLANNING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION OF THE DESTINATION MARKETING ORGANIZATION FOR BALTIMORE CITY, VISIT BALTIMORE, TO ENSURE THE ABILITY OF THE ORGANIZATION TO SUCCESSFULLY MARKET BALTIMORE CITY AS A TOURISM DESTINATION WITH A SPECIFIC EMPHASIS ON MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS; AND

(8) MAKE ANY OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS THE AUTHORITY DEEMS NECESSARY.

12-1207.

THE AUTHORITY MAY:

(1) ADOPT A SEAL;

(2) MAINTAIN OFFICES AT A PLACE THE AUTHORITY DESIGNATES IN THE STATE;

(3) ACCEPT LOANS, GRANTS, OR ASSISTANCE OF ANY KIND FROM THE FEDERAL OR STATE GOVERNMENT, A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, OR A PRIVATE SOURCE;

(4) ENTER INTO CONTRACTS AND OTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENTS;

(5) RETAIN, EMPLOY, OR HIRE AN INDEPENDENT FIRM FOR THE PURPOSES OF RENOVATING, REVITALIZING, MAINTAINING, AND MANAGING THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION SITE, AUTHORITY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY ASSETS, AND ANY OTHER CONTIGUOUS OR NEARBY REAL PROPERTY ASSET THAT THE AUTHORITY IDENTIFIES AND OVER WHICH THE AUTHORITY OBTAINS SITE CONTROL;

(6) SUE OR BE SUED;

(7) ACQUIRE, PURCHASE, HOLD, LEASE AS LESSEE, AND USE ANY REAL, PERSONAL, MIXED, TANGIBLE, OR INTANGIBLE PROPERTY;

1 (8) SELL, LEASE AS LESSOR, TRANSFER, LICENSE, ASSIGN, OR
2 DISPOSE OF PROPERTY OR A PROPERTY INTEREST THAT IT ACQUIRES;

3 (9) CHARGE FOR SERVICES AND RESOURCES THE AUTHORITY
4 PROVIDES OR MAKES AVAILABLE;

5 (10) CREATE, OWN, CONTROL, OR BE A MEMBER OF A CORPORATION,
6 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, PARTNERSHIP, OR OTHER ENTITY, WHETHER
7 OPERATED FOR PROFIT OR NOT FOR PROFIT;

8 (11) EXERCISE POWER USUALLY POSSESSED BY A PRIVATE
9 CORPORATION IN PERFORMING SIMILAR FUNCTIONS UNLESS TO DO SO WOULD
10 CONFLICT WITH STATE LAW; AND

11 (12) DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY AND CONVENIENT TO CARRY OUT THE
12 POWERS GRANTED BY THIS SUBTITLE.

13 12-1208.

14 (A) THE AUTHORITY IS EXEMPT:

15 (1) FROM TAXATION BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT;

16 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN TITLE 12, SUBTITLE 4 AND TITLE 14,
17 SUBTITLE 3 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, FROM DIVISION
18 II OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE;

19 (3) FROM § 15-112 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT
20 ARTICLE; AND

21 (4) FROM THE PROVISIONS OF DIVISION I OF THE STATE PERSONNEL
22 AND PENSIONS ARTICLE THAT GOVERN THE STATE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
23 SYSTEM.

24 (B) (1) THE AUTHORITY IS SUBJECT TO:

25 (I) THE PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT; AND

26 (II) THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

27 (2) FOR PURPOSES OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, A PROJECT SITE
28 VISIT OR EDUCATIONAL FIELD TOUR MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED A MEETING OF THE
29 AUTHORITY IF NO ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED.

(C) THE MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY AND ITS EMPLOYEES ARE SUBJECT TO THE PUBLIC ETHICS LAW.

12-1209.

(A) (1) AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE FISCAL YEAR, AN INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT SHALL AUDIT THE FINANCIAL BOOKS, RECORDS, AND ACCOUNTS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(2) THE AUDIT SHALL INCLUDE REVENUE AND EXPENSE DETAIL FOR EACH OF THE OPERATING FACILITIES OF THE AUTHORITY.

(3) THE AUTHORITY SHALL SELECT AN ACCOUNTANT TO CONDUCT THE AUDIT WHO:

(I) IS LICENSED TO PRACTICE ACCOUNTANCY IN THE STATE;

(II) IS EXPERIENCED AND QUALIFIED IN THE ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING OF PUBLIC ENTITIES; AND

(III) DOES NOT HAVE A DIRECT OR INDIRECT PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE FISCAL AFFAIRS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(4) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1 AFTER EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE ACCOUNTANT SHALL REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE AUDIT, INCLUDING THE ACCOUNTANT'S UNQUALIFIED OPINION OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE FUNDS OF THE AUTHORITY, INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL DETAIL FOR EACH OF THE OPERATING FACILITIES OF THE AUTHORITY, AND THE RESULTS OF THE FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(II) IF THE ACCOUNTANT CANNOT EXPRESS AN UNQUALIFIED OPINION, THE ACCOUNTANT SHALL EXPLAIN IN DETAIL THE REASONS FOR THE QUALIFICATIONS, DISCLAIMERS, OR OPINIONS, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES THAT COULD MAKE FUTURE UNQUALIFIED OPINIONS POSSIBLE.

(B) THE STATE MAY AUDIT THE BOOKS, RECORDS, AND ACCOUNTS OF THE AUTHORITY.

12-1210.

1 **(A) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2026, AND EACH OCTOBER 1 THEREAFTER,**
2 **THE AUTHORITY SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, THE MAYOR OF**
3 **BALTIMORE CITY, AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE**
4 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

5 **(B) THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE A COMPLETE OPERATING AND FINANCIAL**
6 **STATEMENT AND SUMMARIZE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AUTHORITY DURING THE**
7 **PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR.**

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial
9 members of the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating
10 Authority shall expire as follows:

11 (1) five members in 2027, including one member described under §
12 12-1203(a)(6) and one member described under § 12-1203(a)(3);

13 (2) five members in 2028, including one member described under §
14 12-1203(a)(1) and one member described under § 12-1203(a)(4); and

15 (3) five members in 2029, including one member described under §
16 12-1203(a)(6) and one member described under 12-1203(a)(2).

17 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
18 1, 2025.