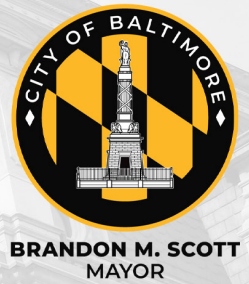


City of Baltimore 2025 Legislative Priorities



The 2025 Maryland General Assembly session in Annapolis will be crucial to building on the progress the City of Baltimore made during my first term in office. The success of my Administration's legislative priorities depends on the support of the hardest working delegation in Annapolis, and we look forward to working with our partners every step of the way. During my time as Mayor, the leadership and partnership of our delegation in Annapolis has helped to usher in critical legislation for the City of Baltimore that included establishing a vacant property tax rate across the entire state of Maryland, taking significant steps to update the private home detention monitoring system, establishing permanent funding to reduce vacant housing, restoring Highway User Revenue funding, and finalizing local control of the Baltimore Police Department. It is remarkable how much we have been able to accomplish in a short four years.



During the 2025 Legislative Session, we will continue our partnership to bring home the resources and policies that our residents need and deserve. Below is a description of my top legislative priorities for the upcoming session. This year's focus in the General Assembly will undoubtedly be impacted by the sizeable budget deficit facing the State, but I know that when we work together, we can accomplish our goals and still deliver for the residents of Baltimore. I am optimistic and eager that this session will be another successful year for the City of Baltimore.

— **Mayor Brandon M. Scott**

1. *Administration Bill* — **Local Share of Existing Sales Tax** **Local Bill**

As a part of the \$3B vacant reduction strategy, this legislation would require that the state of Maryland remit 2% of the existing 6% of sales tax generated in Baltimore City. Half of the estimated \$142m would go toward funding a portion of the vacant reduction strategy and the other half would provide property tax rebates of \$1,000 per homeowner in Baltimore City.

2. *Administration Bill* — **Establishment of the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority** **Local Bill**

Based upon the recommendations set forth by the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Organization Task Force, we will be advancing legislation to establish an authority to oversee the future of the Baltimore Convention Center.

3. Administration Bill — Extension of Highway User Revenue Increased Share Local Bill

Following FY2027, the increases in State Highway User Revenue that is directed to Baltimore City will revert back to its lower level. This legislation would make the increase permanent in order to ensure the City is able to complete its larger capital projects while also maintaining all state and local roads throughout the jurisdiction.

4. Administration Bill — Removal of I-83 Camera Sunset Local Bill

The current speed camera program for Interstate 83 is set to expire June 30, 2026. This legislation would remove the sunset and would authorize the City to relocate cameras at fixed locations with appropriate advance public notice to ensure motorist safety along the corridor.

5. Administration Bill — Modification of Baltimore City Charter to Increase Civil and Criminal Penalty Cap Statewide Bill

This legislation would increase the cap from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for civil penalties. We intend to use this increased cap to increase the penalty for illegal dumping.

6. Administration Bill — Decriminalization of Drug Paraphernalia Statewide Bill

This legislation would remove syringes from the list of prohibited drug paraphernalia and would reduce the fines and prison sentences for those who are found in possession of certain drug paraphernalia for personal use. Currently, a person found in possession of paraphernalia (including syringes) can face up to two years imprisonment and/or up to a \$2,000 fine; if they are found with paraphernalia and a controlled substance, this increases to up to four years imprisonment and/or up to a \$25,000 fine. Criminalizing possession of syringes can deter people from accessing important health care and public health programs that are proven to reduce intravenous drug use and prevent overdoses. This legislation has been introduced in previous sessions.

7. Overdose Prevention Centers Statewide Bill

This legislation, which has been introduced in several previous sessions, would allow for up to six overdose prevention centers (OPCs) to be established across the State. OPCs have been legalized in three other states so far: Minnesota, Vermont, and Rhode Island. They are associated with reduced overdoses, decreased public drug use, reduced syringe litter, increased access to addiction treatment, increased engagement in health services, and reduced strain on emergency medical services. As Maryland sees an influx of opioid restitution funds, we have an unprecedented opportunity to address substance use disorder and the overdose crisis – I’m calling on our state legislators to take bold, evidence-based action.

8. Administration Bill — Modernization of Language for Baltimore City’s Syringe Services Program Local Bill

30 years ago, Baltimore City established the state’s first syringe services program. This bill would update the statute that created the program, removing the referral to the City’s program as a “pilot,” updating now-outdated language, amending the composition of the program’s oversight committee, and transitioning the authority to confirm committee members from the state to the City.

Baltimore City Administration Supported Legislation

9. County Income Tax — Rate and Income Brackets — Alterations **Statewide Bill**
10. Expansion of Access to Orioles 50/50 Raffle **Local Bill**
11. Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Penalties **Statewide Bill**
12. Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Late Penalties **Statewide Bill**
13. Baltimore City - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems — Authorization **Local Bill**
14. Admissions and Amusement Tax – Food and Beverages **Statewide Bill**
15. **Administration Bill** — Baltimore City — Assault of Special Enforcement Officers — Penalties **Local Bill**
16. Eligibility of Automated Citations for Traffic Violation(s) Payment Plan **Statewide Bill**
17. Immobilization and Towing of Noncompliant Out of State Vehicles **Local Bill**
18. **Administration Bill** — Motor Vehicle Administration Records — Access to Digital Photographic Images and Signatures — Baltimore City Agencies **Local Bill**
19. Statute of Limitations — Prosecution or Enforcement of Local Consumer Protection Codes **Statewide Bill**
20. Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard — Eligible Sources — Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025) **Statewide Bill**
21. Public Safety — Police Accountability — Deadline for Completion of Investigation **Statewide Bill**