

Introduced: April 28, 1980
(Read and Adopted)

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED
RESOLUTION URGING VETO OF
H.B. 1678

City Council Resolution urging Governor Hughes to veto H.B. 1678, the bill that decriminalizes alcoholic beverage laws.

WHEREAS, H.B. 1678 was enacted in the final minutes of the General Assembly Session, which calls for the decriminalization of the Alcoholic Beverages Law, the establishment of citation procedure and the imposing of civil penalties;

WHEREAS, This bill passed so quickly that our legislators did not fully realize the provisions of the bill, or the impact it would have on Baltimore City;

WHEREAS, This bill will repeal our local public drinking ordinances;

WHEREAS, This bill will severely hamper the ability of Police to get intoxicated individuals off the street and out of sporting events;

WHEREAS, The issuance of a citation for drunkenness will encourage individuals to attempt to drive in that condition and endanger the lives and property of other citizens;

WHEREAS, Citations are impracticable in acquiring accurate information from intoxicated juveniles and adults who will no longer be able to be taken into custody;

WHEREAS, There are no provisions in this bill for verifying information from a violator although the bill says it is unlawful to give false information to a Police Officer, there is no way for the Officer to know that such information is false until long after the incident and the offender will have successfully eluded a legal citation as well as arrest;

WHEREAS, Citation procedures for those selling alcoholic beverages to minors will make it easier for such individuals to continue this unlawful practice;

WHEREAS, This bill in its present form is ambiguous and impractical and will only compound our already serious public drinking problem, especially among juveniles;

WHEREAS, There are questions about the