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**HB 785**

February 15, 2022

**TO:** Members of the House Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 785 - Baltimore City - District Court - Jobs Court Pilot Program

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 785.

HB 785 creates a five-year Jobs Court Pilot Program within the Baltimore City District Court. This program is administered and monitored jointly by the court and the Baltimore Workforce Development Board. This bill mandates the governor appropriate \$500,000 to the board annually to entities that participate in the pilot program.

The Jobs Court Pilot program envisioned in this bill would provide economic opportunity to individuals that are vulnerable to recidivism by providing full-time job training and placements as an alternative to incarceration. If successful, it could also serve as a model for establishing similar programs across the state.

The BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 785.