

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 24-0489  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Middleton, Stokes, President Mosby, and Councilmember Cohen

At the request of: The Administration (Office of Children and Family Success)

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Workforce, and Youth Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Office of Equity and Civil Rights, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Children Youth and Families – Youth Commission – Amendment**

3 FOR the purpose of amending the composition of the Youth Commission; providing for the  
4 compensation of Commission members; providing for the selection of certain officers;  
5 establishing the Executive Committee; providing for the membership and duties of the  
6 Executive Committee; requiring the adoption of a constitution and bylaws; updating the  
7 powers and duties of the Commission; providing for staff to the Commission; requiring  
8 agency cooperation with the Commission; and generally related to amending certain  
9 provisions related to the Commission.

10 BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments

11 Article 1 - Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies  
12 Sections 22-5 to 22-7  
13 Baltimore City Code  
14 (Edition 2000)

15 BY adding

16 Article 1 - Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies  
17 Sections 22-8  
18 Baltimore City Code  
19 (Edition 2000)

20 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
21 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

22 **Baltimore City Code**

23 **Article 1. Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies**

24 **Subtitle 22. Children, Youth, and Families**

25 ***Part II. Youth Commission***

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1    **§ 22-5. Composition.**

2       (a) *In general.*

3           The Commission comprises 17 [voting] members [and 14 non-voting members].

4       (b) [*Voting members*] *MEMBERS.*

5           (1) The [voting] members shall be appointed by the Mayor, in accordance with City  
6           Charter Article IV, § 6, as follows:

7                   (i) 1 youth from each of the 14 Council Districts, at least 1 of whom is not a  
8                   graduate of or then enrolled in a traditional educational program; and

9                   (ii) 3 at-large youths recommended by the President of the City Council.

10          (2) Each [voting] member of the Commission must be a resident of Baltimore City.

11          (3) A youth may not be appointed to a term as a [voting] member of the Commission if  
12          that youth would become [26] 23 years old during that term.

13       (c) *Agency representatives.*

14           [Each of the following entities shall designate a non-voting member to represent that  
15           entity:]

16                   [(1) Baltimore City Public School System.]

17                   [(2) Department of Recreation and Parks.]

18                   [(3) Health Department.]

19                   [(4) Police Department (PAL Centers).]

20                   [(5) Department of Social Services.]

21                   [(6) State’s Attorney’s Office.]

22                   [(7) Enoch Pratt Free Library.]

23                   [(8) Mayor’s Office of Employment Development.]

24                   [(9) Housing Authority of Baltimore City.]

25                   [(10) State Department of Juvenile Services.]

26                   [(11) Family League of Baltimore City.]

27                   [(12) Baltimore City Community College.]

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1 [(d) *Mayoral and Council representatives.*]

2 [(1) 2 non-voting, ex officio members are:]

3 [(i) the Mayor; and]

4 [(ii) the President of the City Council.]

5 [(2) The Mayor or Council President may designate another person to serve in her or his  
6 place.]

7 **§ 22-6. Terms, organization, meetings, etc.**

8 (a) *Terms.*

9 (1) The term of a [voting] member expires at the end of the Mayor's term.

10 (2) At the end of a term, a [voting] member continues to serve until a successor is  
11 appointed and qualifies.

12 (3) A MEMBER MAY ONLY SERVE A MAXIMUM OF 3 TERMS.

13 (b) *Compensation; expenses.*

14 The members of the Commission[:] SERVE WITH COMPENSATION BASED ON HOURS  
15 SERVED, AS PROVIDED IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES.

16 [(1) serve without compensation; but]

17 [(2) are entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in the  
18 performance of their duties, as provided in the Ordinance of Estimates.]

19 (c) [*Officers; committees.*] *OFFICERS.*

20 (1) The Mayor shall designate a [voting] member to serve as Commission Chair.

21 [(2) The Chair may select other officers.]

22 (2) AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH TERM AND AFTER ALL MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED, THE  
23 COMMISSION CHAIR SHALL CALL A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION AND THE  
24 COMMISSION SHALL ELECT MEMBERS TO SERVE AS:

25 (I) VICE CHAIR;

26 (II) TREASURER; AND

27 (III) SECRETARY.

28 [(3) The Chair may appoint committees to assist the Commission in carrying out its  
29 functions and duties.]

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1 (D) *COMMITTEES.*

2 (1) THERE IS AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN THE COMMISSION THAT COMPRISES THE  
3 FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

4 (I) THE CHAIR;

5 (II) THE VICE CHAIR;

6 (III) THE TREASURER;

7 (IV) THE SECRETARY; AND

8 (V) AN AT-LARGE MEMBER, WHO SHALL BE ELECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE  
9 COMMISSIONERS AT THE COMMISSION'S FIRST MEETING.

10 (2) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

11 (I) MAY EXPEND FUNDS AUTHORIZED IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES OR ANY  
12 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS;

13 (II) MAY APPOINT COMMITTEES TO ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN CARRYING OUT ITS  
14 FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES; AND

15 (III) SHALL GENERALLY OVERSEE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMISSION.

16 (E) [(d)] *Meetings; quorum.*

17 (1) The Commission shall meet on the call of the Chair as frequently as required to  
18 perform its duties, but not less than [6 times nor more than 10 times each year] 1 TIME  
19 EACH MONTH.

20 (2) A majority of the [voting] members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of  
21 business.

22 (3) An affirmative vote of at least a majority of a quorum is needed for any official  
23 action.

24 (F) *CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.*

25 (1) *IN GENERAL.*

26 THE COMMISSION MUST ADOPT A CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS TO GOVERN ITS  
27 MEETINGS AND OPERATIONS.

28 (2) *CONSTITUTION.*

29 (I) THE COMMISSION MUST ADOPT A CONSTITUTION WITHIN 30 DAYS OF ELECTING  
30 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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1 (II) THE COMMISSION MUST REVIEW, REVISE, AND RE-ADOPT THE CONSTITUTION  
2 WITHIN 30 DAYS OF ELECTING A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AFTER THE  
3 START OF EACH NEW MAYORAL TERM.

4 (3) *BYLAWS.*

5 (I) THE COMMISSION MUST ADOPT BYLAWS WITHIN 60 DAYS OF ELECTING THE  
6 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

7 (II) THE COMMISSION MUST REVIEW, REVISE, AND RE-ADOPT THE BYLAWS WITHIN  
8 60 DAYS OF ELECTING A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AFTER THE START OF  
9 EACH NEW MAYORAL TERM.

10 (G) *STAFF.*

11 THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SUCCESS, OR ITS SUCCESSOR, SHALL:

12 (1) PROVIDE STAFF TO THE COMMISSION; AND

13 (2) PROVIDE THE PERSONNEL AND CAPITAL SUPPORT NECESSARY FOR THE  
14 COMMISSION TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE ORDINANCE OF  
15 ESTIMATES.

16 (H) [(e)] *Rules and regulations.*

17 Subject to Title 4 {"Administrative Procedure Act – Regulations"} of the City General  
18 Provisions Article, the Commission may adopt rules and regulations to govern its  
19 meetings and operations.

20 **§ 22-7. [Commission] POWERS AND duties.**

21 (A) *POWERS.*

22 IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER POWERS SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE COMMISSION MAY:

23 (1) ENGAGE, CONSULT, AND PARTNER WITH A CITY OFFICIAL AND ANY UNIT OF CITY  
24 GOVERNMENT; AND

25 (2) ENGAGE, CONSULT, AND PARTNER WITH A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.

26 (B) *DUTIES.*

27 The Commission shall:

28 [(1) develop and maintain a 3-year plan of action that outlines specific areas for  
29 Commission study and recommendations;]

30 [(2) review issues relating to programs and services for children and youth;]

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- 1 [(3) identify and recommend priorities among programs and services for children and  
2 youth;]
- 3 [(4) create a forum for discussions with children, youth, and their families;]
- 4 [(5) advocate services and programs for children and youth;]
- 5 [(6) make recommendations for programs, policies, procedures, or legislation it  
6 deems necessary to promote the well-being of children, youth, and their  
7 families;]
- 8 [(7) work with the public and private sector in a collaborative effort to:]
- 9 [(i) bring forth the concerns of children and youth; and]
- 10 [(ii) evaluate and strengthen programming that will enhance the interpersonal  
11 and social development of children and youth;]
- 12 [(8) develop a communications network to share information about public and  
13 private services to children and youth;]
- 14 [(9) submit an annual report to the Mayor and the City Council; and]
- 15 [(10) perform any other duties that the Mayor requests.]
- 16 (1) CREATE AND DELIVER A YEAR-END ANNUAL REPORT ON COMMISSION ACTIVITIES  
17 TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL;
- 18 (2) REVIEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH AND PROVIDE  
19 FEEDBACK REGARDING EFFECTIVENESS TO THE RESPECTIVE RESOURCE  
20 ADMINISTRATOR;
- 21 (3) HOST AND PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC FORUMS WITH AND ABOUT CHILDREN AND  
22 YOUTH;
- 23 (4) ADVOCATE FOR RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH;
- 24 (5) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROGRAMS, POLICIES, PROCEDURES, OR  
25 LEGISLATION DEEMED NECESSARY TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN,  
26 YOUTH, AND THEIR FAMILIES;
- 27 (6) RAISE AWARENESS OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND THEIR  
28 FAMILIES; AND
- 29 (7) REVIEW AND EVALUATE EXISTING AND PROPOSED POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND  
30 LEGISLATION AS THEY RELATE TO THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND  
31 THEIR FAMILIES.

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1     **§ 22-8. AGENCY COOPERATION.**

2             ALL CITY OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES SHALL COOPERATE WITH THE COMMISSION AND EXTEND  
3             THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES THAT THE COMMISSION REQUIRES TO THE EXTENT THAT THE  
4             OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES ARE ABLE TO DO SO GIVEN PERSONNEL AND BUDGETS AS PROVIDED  
5             IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES.

6             **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30<sup>th</sup> day  
7             after the date it is enacted.