

CITY OF BALTIMORE
RESOLUTION 26 • 04
Council Bill 26-0191

Introduced by: The Council President

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Dorsey, Schleifer, Gray, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard,
Jones, and Ramos

At the request of: Charter Review Special Committee

Introduced and read first time: May 11, 2026

Assigned to: Charter Review Special Committee

Committee Report: Favorable

Council action: Adopted

Read second time: June 8, 2026

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING

Charter Amendment – Budget, Veto, and Board of Estimates Reform

FOR the purpose of amending certain processes, requirements, and permissions relating to the adoption and rejection of ordinances and resolutions; amending certain processes, requirements, and permissions relating to the adoption and rejection of the City's budget and certain tax rates; removing certain improper, non-essential, obsolete, and redundant provisions; setting a special effective date; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

BY proposing to amend
Article III – City Council
Section 15(e)
Baltimore City Charter
(1996 Edition)

BY proposing to amend
Article IV – Mayor
Section 5
Baltimore City Charter
(1996 Edition)

BY proposing to add
Article VI – Board of Estimates
The new part designations,
“Part I. Budget” and “Part II. Board of Estimates”
Baltimore City Charter
(1996 Edition)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

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1 BY proposing to renumber
2 Article VI – Board of Estimates
3 Sections 1 and 18, respectively
4 to be
5 Sections 10 and 9, respectively
6 Baltimore City Charter
7 (1996 Edition)

8 BY proposing to amend and renumber
9 Article VI – Board of Estimates
10 Sections 3 and 5 through 11, respectively
11 to be
12 Sections 1 through 8, respectively
13 Baltimore City Charter
14 (1996 Edition)

15 BY proposing to repeal
16 Article VI - Board of Estimates
17 Sections 2, 4, and 12 through 17
18 Baltimore City Charter
19 (1996 Edition)

20 BY proposing to add
21 Article VI - Board of Estimates
22 Section 11
23 Baltimore City Charter
24 (1996 Edition)

25 BY proposing to amend
26 Article VII – Executive Departments
27 Sections 8, 9, 53(g), and 72(j)
28 Baltimore City Charter
29 (1996 Edition)

30 BY proposing to amend
31 Article X – Office of the Inspector General
32 Section 5(c)
33 Baltimore City Charter
34 (1996 Edition)

35 **SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That**
36 **Article VI – Board of Estimates of the City Charter be renamed to be Article VI – Budget and**
37 **Board of Estimates of the City Charter.**

38 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Charter is proposed to be**
39 **amended to read as follows:**

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Baltimore City Charter

Article III. City Council

§ 15. General counsel.

(c) Compensation; Expenses.

(1) The General Counsel's compensation shall be at least equal to that of a full-time Chief of the Law Department's General Counsel Division.

(2) The [Board of Estimates] MAYOR shall annually include in the Ordinance of Estimates submitted to the City Council an amount sufficient to fund the General Counsel's compensation and necessary expenses.

(3) The amount appropriated for the General Counsel's compensation and expenses shall be in addition to and may not supplant, be deducted from, or serve as a basis for reducing any part of the operating budget of the City Council.

Article IV. Mayor

§ 5. Approval or veto of legislation.

(a) Delivery to Mayor; Approval.

All ordinances or resolutions duly passed by the City Council, after being properly certified by the President of the City Council as having been so passed, shall be delivered by the Clerk of the Council to the Mayor for approval. The date of delivery shall be noted on the ordinances or resolutions and, when approved by the Mayor, they shall become ordinances or resolutions of the City.

(b) Veto; Return to Council.

(1) IN GENERAL.

If the Mayor does not approve of an ordinance or resolution passed by the City Council, the Mayor shall return it with written objections to the City Council within [three actual regular] 2 meetings, not more than one of which shall occur in any one calendar week, of the City Council after the delivery of the ordinance or resolution to the Mayor.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE SHALL THE MAYOR HAVE FEWER THAN 14 CALENDAR DAYS TO RETURN AN ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

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(2) EXCEPTION FOR ITEMS OF APPROPRIATION.

NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, FOLLOWING APPROVAL BY THE CITY COUNCIL, IF THE MAYOR DOES NOT APPROVE THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES OR AN ITEM OF APPROPRIATION CONTAINED THEREIN, THE MAYOR SHALL RETURN IT WITH WRITTEN OBJECTIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL WITHIN 4 CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE DELIVERY OF THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES TO THE MAYOR.

(3) [(2)] RECONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL.

On receipt, the Mayor's objections shall be read promptly to the Council and entered on its Journal. The Council may proceed to reconsider and vote on the ordinance or [resolution:] RESOLUTION AT ANY TIME WITHIN 2 CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE MAYOR'S OBJECTIONS.

[(i) after 5 calendar days from when the Mayor's objections have been read to the Council; and]

[(ii) either:]

[(A) within 20 calendar days from when the Mayor's objections have been read to the Council; or]

[(B) if no regular meeting is held during that 20-day period, at the first regular meeting that is scheduled after that 20-day period.]

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE SHALL THE CITY COUNCIL HAVE FEWER THAN 14 CALENDAR DAYS TO RECONSIDER AN ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION RETURNED TO THE CITY COUNCIL BY THE MAYOR.

(4) [(3)] NEW COUNCIL TERM.

Notwithstanding paragraph [(2)] (3) of this subsection, no vetoed ordinance or resolution may be reconsidered by a City Council that has been newly-elected and sworn since the passage of the vetoed ordinance or resolution.

(5) [(4)] PASS ON RECONSIDERATION.

If the ordinance or resolution, after reconsideration, is again passed by the City Council by a vote of two-thirds of its members, it becomes an ordinance or resolution of the City. In these cases, after the reconsideration, the votes on the question of the passage of the ordinance or resolution over the veto of the Mayor shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against passage of the ordinance or resolution over the veto of the Mayor shall be entered on the Journal of the City Council.

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1 (c) *No action by Mayor.*

2 If an ordinance or resolution duly passed by the City Council shall not be returned by the
3 Mayor to the City Council within [three actual regular] TWO meetings, no more than one
4 of which shall occur in any one calendar week, after it shall have been delivered to the
5 Mayor, it shall become an ordinance or resolution of the City in the same manner as if the
6 Mayor had approved it, unless the City Council by an adjournment sine die, or for a
7 period exceeding one month, shall prevent its return, in which case it shall not be law.

8 (d) *Items of appropriation.*

9 If an ordinance or resolution duly passed by the City Council shall embrace different
10 items of appropriation, the Mayor may approve the provisions thereof relating to one or
11 more items of appropriation and disapprove the others, and in such case those the Mayor
12 shall approve shall become effective and those which the Mayor shall not approve shall
13 be reconsidered by the City Council, and shall become effective if again passed over the
14 veto of the Mayor by the vote as above prescribed for the passage over the veto of the
15 [Mayor of entire ordinances or resolutions. The procedures governing the Mayor's veto of
16 an item of appropriation and the Council's reconsideration of that item shall be the same
17 as those in this section that govern the passage, veto, reconsideration and override of
18 ordinances and resolutions.] MAYOR.

19 **Article VI. BUDGET AND Board of Estimates**

20 **PART I. BUDGET**

21 **§ 1. [3.] Fiscal year; Budget schedule.**

22 (a) *Fiscal year.*

23 The fiscal, budget, and accounting year of the City shall begin on the first day of July and
24 end on the thirtieth day of June in every year unless otherwise provided by law.

25 [(b) *Notice and hearing.*]

26 [At least thirty days prior to the adoption by the Board of Estimates of a proposed
27 Ordinance of Estimates the Board shall make public the Director of Finance's
28 recommended operating budget, the Planning Commission's recommended capital budget
29 and long-range capital improvement program, and the reports of the Director of Finance
30 and Planning Commission on these documents.]

31 [Thereafter, the Board shall hold public hearings at which members of the City Council,
32 heads of municipal agencies, and citizens shall have the opportunity to appear before the
33 Board to speak for or against the inclusion of any appropriation in the proposed
34 Ordinance of Estimates.]

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(B) [(c)] *Submission to Council.*

The [Board of Estimates] MAYOR shall submit to the City Council the proposed Ordinance of Estimates for the next fiscal year [at least forty-five days before the beginning of that fiscal year.] IN THE MANNER REQUIRED BY § 3 {"ADOPTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES"} OF THIS ARTICLE VI NO LATER THAN APRIL 30 EACH YEAR.

(C) [(d)] *Adoption by Council.*

[The City Council shall have at least forty days after receipt of the Board's proposed Ordinance of Estimates to enact an Ordinance of Estimates.]

The City Council shall adopt an Ordinance of Estimates at least [five] 8 days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year to which it is [applicable if the Board of Estimates submits its proposed Ordinance of Estimates within the period prescribed by Section 3(c).] APPLICABLE.

(D) *VETO AND OVERRIDE.*

(1) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROCESS FOR VETO AND RECONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION ESTABLISHED IN ARTICLE IV, § 5 OF THIS CHARTER, THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL SHALL ADOPT THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR TO WHICH IT IS APPLICABLE.

(2) THE CITY COUNCIL MAY NOT RECONSIDER AN ITEM OF APPROPRIATION CONTAINED IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES AND VETOED BY THE MAYOR AFTER THE START OF THE FISCAL YEAR TO WHICH THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES IS APPLICABLE.

[§ 2. Powers and duties.]

[The Board of Estimates shall formulate and execute the fiscal policy of the City to the extent, and in the manner provided for, in the Charter. To exercise its powers and perform its duties, the Board may promulgate rules and regulations and summon before it the heads of departments, bureaus or divisions, municipal officers, and members of commissions and boards.]

[§ 4. Assistance from Finance Director and Planning Commission.]

[To assist the Board of Estimates in the preparation of the proposed Ordinance of Estimates:]

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1 **(b) *Contingent fund.***

2 The [Board] MAYOR may include annually in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates a
3 [sum up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00)] PORTION of the General Fund
4 appropriations to be used during the next fiscal year as a contingent fund in case of an
5 emergency or necessity for the expenditure of money in excess of or other than the
6 appropriations regularly passed for any municipal agency.

7 [At least one week before it approves a contingent fund expenditure, the Board shall
8 report to the City Council the reasons for the expenditure.]

9 **(C) *RECOMMENDATIONS AFTER INTRODUCTION.***

10 THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OR THE PLANNING COMMISSION MAY SUBMIT ADDITIONAL
11 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL AFTER THE DATE THE ORDINANCE OF
12 ESTIMATES IS INTRODUCED BY THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, BUT BEFORE THE PASSAGE OF
13 THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING NEW INFORMATION
14 REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN FUNDS FOR APPROPRIATION.

15 **§ 3. [6.] Adoption of proposed Ordinance of Estimates.**

16 **(a) *Adoption, submission, and publication.***

17 [After the public notice and hearings prescribed by Section 3(b), the Board shall adopt a
18 proposed Ordinance of Estimates by a majority vote of all the members.]

19 The [Board] MAYOR shall deliver the proposed Ordinance of Estimates to the President
20 of the City Council and contemporaneously [publish a copy of the proposed ordinance in
21 two daily newspapers in Baltimore City.] MAKE PUBLIC A COPY OF THE PROPOSED
22 ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES IN A MANNER ACCESSIBLE TO ALL CITY RESIDENTS.

23 **(b) *Accompanying materials.***

24 The proposed Ordinance of Estimates that the [Board] MAYOR submits to the City
25 Council shall be accompanied by the following materials:

26 (I) a breakdown of the amounts stated for each program, purpose, activity, or project of
27 each municipal agency in the proposed operating budget by standard categories of
28 expenditure, for

29 (I) [(a)] personal services,

30 (II) [(b)] materials, supplies, and equipment,

31 (III) [(c)] debt service, and

32 (IV) [(d)] such other categories as the [Board of Estimates] MAYOR
33 may deem advisable.

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The personal services category shall include the compensation of every officer and salaried employee of the City; provided, however, that the salaries for employees in the same classification who have a uniform salary or salary range may be combined into a single entry, which shall indicate the number of such employees, their aggregate salaries, and the name or title of the classification.

(2) a comparison by standard categories of expenditures of the appropriations contained in the proposed operating budget with

(I) [(a)] the amounts requested by the municipal agencies in their budget submissions

(II) [(b)] the amounts appropriated for the current fiscal year and

(III) [(c)] the amounts expended in the prior fiscal year;

(3) detailed information about the sources of funds to meet the aggregate total of the appropriations contained in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates;

(4) the long-range capital improvement program adopted by the Board and for each capital project included in the capital budget, the following:

(I) a brief description and location,

(II) the total estimated cost,

(III) the appropriations authorized to date,

(IV) the appropriations proposed for the next fiscal year,

(V) the appropriations required thereafter to complete the project, and

(VI) the estimated additional annual maintenance and operation cost;

(5) a statement setting out:

(I) [(a)] the revenues which the City can reasonably expect to receive in the next fiscal year from all existing sources of revenue at existing rates other than the full rate property tax but including amounts believed to be collectible from taxes for prior years and including an estimate of the surplus expected at the end of the current fiscal year;

(II) [(b)] the difference between the revenues expected under [(a)] (I) above and the total amount of appropriations provided in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates;

(III) [(c)] the estimated taxable basis for the next ensuing fiscal year for the levy of full rate property taxes;

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(IV) [(d)] the rate for the levy of full rate property taxes which, given the revenues expected under [(a)] (I) above, the total appropriations in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates, and the taxable basis, will be necessary to raise sufficient total revenues to cover total anticipated expenditures;

(V) [(e)] new sources of revenue or new rates on existing sources of revenue, and the amounts which can reasonably be expected from each of them, which the [Board of Estimates] MAYOR believes should be adopted for the next fiscal year; also the rate for the levy of full rate property taxes which, in view of such new sources of revenue or new rates on existing sources of revenue, will be necessary to bring total expected revenues for the next fiscal year into balance with total anticipated expenditures for the year;

(6) a message from the Mayor explaining the major emphasis and objectives of the City's budget for the next fiscal year;

(7) such other information as the [Board of Estimates] MAYOR may deem advisable.

§ 4. [7.] Enactment of Ordinance of Estimates.

(a) *Introduction; authorized cuts.*

(1) On receipt of the proposed Ordinance of Estimates and the accompanying materials, the President of the City Council shall promptly cause it to be introduced in the City Council, and the Council shall hold public hearings on the proposed Ordinance of Estimates.

(2) By a majority vote of its members, the City Council may reduce or eliminate any of the amounts in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates, except:

(i) amounts fixed by state or federal law;

(ii) amounts for the Fire Department established by a board of arbitration and included in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates; and

(iii) amounts for the payment of the interest and principal of the municipal debt.

(b) *Increases and additions.*

(1) Except as provided in this subsection, the City Council does not have the power to increase the amounts [fixed by the Board] SET BY THE MAYOR or to add any amount for any new purpose in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates.

(2) (i) By a majority vote of its members, the City Council may increase items of appropriation within the general fund or add items within the general fund for new purposes provided that:

(A) the aggregate amount of the increase does not exceed the aggregate amount by which the City Council has reduced or eliminated from the Ordinance of Estimates under subsection (a) of this section;

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(B) the increases authorized by this subsection do not derive from the reduction or elimination of revenue, which by law, contract, or regulation must be used to support appropriations for specific purposes; and

(C) an item added for a new purpose is or will be authorized by legislation separate and apart from the Ordinance of Estimates.

(ii) In no event, however, may:

(A) the total amount of the Operating Budget or the Capital Budget, as amended by the City Council, exceed the total amount of the Operating Budget or Capital Budget, respectively, as proposed by the [Board of Estimates;] MAYOR; or

(B) any increase or addition be made to or for any item described in subsection (a)(2)(i), (ii), or (iii) of this section.

(3) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (B)(2)(II)(A) OF THIS SECTION, BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF ITS MEMBERS, THE CITY COUNCIL MAY INCREASE ITEMS OF APPROPRIATION OR ADD ANY AMOUNT FOR ANY NEW PURPOSE IN THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES AS MAY BE RECOMMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OR THE PLANNING COMMISSION UNDER § 2(C) OF THIS ARTICLE.

(4) [(3)] If the carrying out of a particular program, purpose, activity, or project depends on action by a body other than the City, the City Council may insert a specific provision in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates making the appropriation for the particular program, purpose, activity, or project contingent on that action.

(c) *Revenue ordinances.*

(1) *COUNCIL TO ENACT.*

(i) [As soon as practicable after the passage of the Ordinance of Estimates, the] THE City Council shall enact such revenue ordinances as are necessary to produce sufficient expected revenues, as estimated by the [Board of Estimates,] MAYOR, to cover the total anticipated expenditures [authorized by] IN the Ordinance of Estimates.

(ii) The Council may adopt revenue sources or revenue rates other than those proposed by the [Board] MAYOR and in each such instance the estimate of the revenue to be yielded by such a source or rate shall be made by the [Board of Estimates.] DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

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(2) *PROPERTY TAX.*

(I) The [Board of Estimates] DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE shall, taking into account any reductions and eliminations made by the City Council in the anticipated expenditures contained in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates and the revenues to be derived from all existing sources and from any new sources or new rates enacted by the City Council, certify to the Council the difference between the anticipated expenditures for the next fiscal year contained in the Ordinance of Estimates and all expected revenues other than from [the] full rate property [tax.] TAXES.

(II) The [Board] DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE shall then state [a rate] ALL RATES for the levy of full rate property taxes sufficient to realize the amount required to meet the said difference and the ordinance making the annual levy of full rate property taxes shall fix [a rate] ALL RATES not less than that stated by the [Board] DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE so that it shall not be necessary at any time for the City to create a floating debt to meet any deficiency, and it shall not be lawful for the City to create a floating debt for any such purpose.

§ 5. [8.] Deficiencies; Supplementary appropriations.

(a) *Deficiencies.*

No temporary loan shall be authorized or made to pay any deficiency arising from a failure to realize sufficient income from all sources to meet the amounts provided in the Ordinance of Estimates, but the City may temporarily borrow money for its use in anticipation of the receipts of taxes levied for any year. In case of any such deficiency the Board of Estimates shall effect reductions (which need not be pro rata) in appropriations other than those for the payment of the principal and interest of the City debt and such amounts as are fixed by law and contained in the Ordinance of Estimates, except to the extent that the City Council shall, upon the recommendation of the Board of Estimates, enact an ordinance which shall supply revenues to meet all or any part of such deficiency. No emergency loan shall be made except in accordance with the provisions of Article XI of the Constitution of Maryland.

(b) *Supplementary appropriations — when authorized.*

(1) Except as provided herein, the Ordinance of Estimates shall include all the moneys to be appropriated by the City for all purposes for the fiscal year for which the ordinance is applicable.

(2) Additional appropriations are permitted during the fiscal year only in the following circumstances and under the following conditions:

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1 (i) *Excess revenues.*

2 Revenues from any source other than the full rate property tax and other taxes
3 imposed under the authority of Article II, in excess of or in addition to those
4 relied on by the [Board of Estimates] DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE in
5 determining the tax levy required to balance the budget, may be made
6 available for expenditure by the municipal agency responsible for the
7 production of those revenues by a supplementary appropriation ordinance
8 recommended to the City Council by the [Board of Estimates,] DIRECTOR OF
9 FINANCE OR THE PLANNING COMMISSION, duly passed by the City Council by
10 a majority vote of its members and approved by the Mayor.

11 (ii) *Unanticipated grants.*

12 Grants from private or governmental sources that could not be expected with
13 reasonable certainty at the time of the formulation of the proposed Ordinance
14 of Estimates may be made available to the appropriate municipal agency for
15 expenditure by a supplementary appropriation ordinance recommended to the
16 City Council by the [Board of Estimates,] DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OR THE
17 PLANNING COMMISSION, duly passed by the City Council by a majority vote of
18 its members and approved by the Mayor.

19 (iii) *Material changes; new programs.*

20 Further appropriations for programs included in the proposed Ordinance of
21 Estimates made necessary by a material change in circumstances, or additional
22 appropriations for new programs that could not reasonably be anticipated at
23 the time of the formulation of the proposed Ordinance of Estimates may be
24 made available to the appropriate municipal agency for expenditure by a
25 supplementary appropriation ordinance recommended to the City Council by
26 the [Board of Estimates,] DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OR THE PLANNING
27 COMMISSION, duly passed by the City Council by a vote of three-fourths of its
28 members and approved by the Mayor.

29 (c) *Supplementary appropriations – Requisites of ordinance*

30 Every such further or additional appropriation shall be embodied in a separate ordinance
31 limited to a single program, purpose, activity or project therein stated, and each such
32 supplementary appropriation ordinance shall also, anything contained in the Charter to the
33 contrary notwithstanding, provide the revenue necessary to pay the appropriation by a
34 source, other than the full rate property tax, imposed under the authority of Article II. The
35 revenue shall be levied and collected as directed in the ordinance. The estimate of the
36 revenues to be derived from any source proposed in a supplementary appropriation
37 ordinance shall be made by the [Board of Estimates,] DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.

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§ 6. [9.] Uses of appropriations.

(a) In general.

Following the passage of the Ordinance of Estimates and the enactment of the revenue measures necessary to achieve a balance between expected revenues and anticipated expenditures for the next fiscal year the sums contained in the Ordinance of Estimates shall, after the beginning of the fiscal year to which it is applicable, be and become appropriated for the purposes therein named.

No appropriation provided for in the Ordinance of Estimates shall be used for any purpose other than that named in that ordinance, except:

(1) the Board of Estimates may increase the amount for a particular program, purpose, activity, or project or introduce an amount for a new program, purpose, activity or project by transferring thereto amounts already appropriated to that agency; and

(2) upon the recommendation of the Board of Estimates, the City Council by ordinance may authorize the transfer of an appropriation contained in the Ordinance of Estimates from one municipal agency to another municipal agency;

provided, however, that new or different amounts for capital projects from those stated in the capital budget portion of the Ordinance of Estimates shall not be authorized unless the Board of Estimates has received and considered the reports and recommendations thereon of the Planning Commission and the Director of Finance.

(b) Expenditure schedule.

Upon the authorization of the Board of Estimates and under procedures established by the Board, the Director of Finance shall establish an expenditure schedule, applicable to any or all municipal agencies whenever, in the opinion of the Board, financial conditions warrant such budgetary allotments.

(c) Carry-overs; Lapses.

(1) Appropriations contained in the Ordinance of Estimates for a particular program, purpose, activity, or project may, upon the recommendation of the head of the municipal agency concerned and the Director of Finance, and with the approval of the Board of Estimates, be carried over to fiscal years subsequent to the one for which the appropriation is initially made if necessary to accomplish that program, purpose, activity, or project.

(2) Funds encumbered for contracts, projects or other actual commitments and funds dedicated by any act of Congress or by State law or by the terms of any private grant to some specific purpose shall be carried over to the next fiscal year.

(3) All appropriations not so carried over shall lapse at the end of the fiscal year from which made, except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection.

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(4) Any balance remaining in the fund of the water, sanitary wastewater, or stormwater utility (under Section [18] 9 of this article) at the end of the fiscal year shall remain to the credit of that utility [and an estimate of that balance shall be included in that utility's budget for the next year as an estimated receipt.] FUND.

(d) Surpluses.

(1) In case of any surplus arising in any fiscal year by reason of an excess of revenue over the expenditures (including any appropriation carried over) for that year, the surplus shall become a part of the general revenue of the City and shall be available for the general expenditures of the City for the next fiscal year, in accordance with the Ordinance of Estimates for that year. An estimate of the surplus shall be made by the [Board of Estimates] DIRECTOR OF FINANCE and included in expected revenues for the next year.

(2) However, any surplus or retained earnings of the water, sanitary wastewater, or stormwater utility fund (under § [18] 9 of this article) at the end of the fiscal year shall remain to the credit of that utility and the estimate of that balance shall be included in that utility's budget for the next year as an estimated receipt.

§ 7. [10.] Salaries.

(a) In-term increases or decreases — in general.

(1) In preparing the Ordinance of Estimates, the [Board of Estimates] MAYOR may increase or decrease the salaries of all municipal officers, except:

(i) the elected officials subject to Article VII, §§ 117 through 125 of this Charter;
and

(ii) the appointed municipal officers who serve as members of the Board of Estimates,

(2) If the salary of an appointed municipal officer is so increased or decreased, it may not again be increased or decreased, as the case may be, during that officer's term.

(b) In-term increases or decreases — Board members.

(1) The Mayor and City Council may, by ordinance, increase or decrease the salaries of the appointed municipal officers who serve as members of the Board of Estimates.

(2) If the salary of an appointed municipal officer on the Board is so increased or decreased, it may not again be increased or decreased, as the case may be, during that officer's term.

(c) Employment contingent on appropriation.

No person shall be appointed or employed as a paid municipal officer or employee unless an appropriation to cover that person's compensation is included in the Ordinance of Estimates;

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provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to:

(1) appointments or employments approved by resolution of the Board of Estimates, where funds are available for payment of the designated compensation; and

(2) persons whose appointment or employment is to be made and whose compensation is to be fixed by the Board of School Commissioners as provided in Section 63 of Article VII.

(d) *Increases beyond Ordinance of Estimates.*

Except in cases of promotion, the salary or compensation of no officer or employee of the City shall be increased beyond that set forth in the materials accompanying the proposed Ordinance of Estimates unless the increase be approved by the Board of Estimates upon the recommendation of the head of the agency concerned, and funds therefor are available in the appropriation allotted in the Ordinance of Estimates to the agency in question;

provided, however, that the Board of Estimates may adopt rules and regulations governing increments to be granted to employees whose classifications call for an annual increment until the maximum of such classification is reached;

provided, further, that nothing in this provision shall affect the power conferred by Section 63 of Article VII upon the Board of School Commissioners.

(e) *Payment intervals.*

The salaries of all municipal officers and employees, whether or not fixed by the Charter, shall be paid at such intervals, but not less frequently than semi-monthly, as the Board of Estimates may determine from time to time.

§ 8. [11.] Procurement.

[(a) *Board of Estimates responsible.*]

[The Board of Estimates shall be responsible for awarding contracts and supervising all purchasing by the City as provided in this section and elsewhere in the Charter.]

(A) [(b)] *Authority of City Council.*

[(1)] By ordinance passed by two-thirds of the City Council members, the Mayor and City Council shall set the dollar thresholds for:

(1) [(i)] contracts that must be formally advertised; and

(2) [(ii)] contracts that must be approved by the Board of Estimates.

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1 (B) [(2)] *EFFECTIVE DATE OF THRESHOLD AMOUNTS.*

2 [Pending enactment of an Ordinance under this subsection, the Board of Estimates shall
3 set initial threshold amounts. Those initial existing threshold amounts shall remain in
4 effect until different amounts have been set by Ordinance under this subsection.]

5 THRESHOLD AMOUNTS SET BY ORDINANCE SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL DIFFERENT
6 AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN SET BY ORDINANCE UNDER THIS SECTION.

7 [(c) *Formal advertisement.*]

8 [In contracting for any public work, or the purchase of any supplies (unless otherwise
9 provided by ordinance for foodstuffs and related perishables), materials, equipment, or
10 services other than professional services, for the City or by any municipal agency,
11 involving an expenditure of greater than the threshold set under subsection (b) of this
12 section, advertisements for proposals shall first be published at least twice in two or more
13 newspapers of general circulation published in Baltimore City, and published
14 electronically to the public, unless otherwise provided by the Charter. The first
15 publication shall be made not less than 10 nor more than 90 days prior to the day set for
16 opening the bids.]

17 [(d) *Professional services.*]

18 [All professional services contracted for by the City shall be engaged in the manner
19 prescribed by resolution of the Board of Estimates.]

20 [(e) *Emergencies, etc.*]

21 [(i) When any supplies, materials, equipment, services, or public works are of such a
22 nature that no advantage will result in seeking, or it is not practicable to obtain,
23 competitive bids, or when the need for supplies, materials, equipment, services, or
24 public works is of an emergency nature and the using agency certifies this in writing
25 to the Board of Estimates, with written notice to the Department of Finance, the
26 provisions of subsection (c) of this section may be dispensed with. However, the
27 purchase may not be made, nor may the City incur any obligation for it, until
28 approved by the Board of Estimates after considering the recommendation of the
29 Department of Finance. When practicable, the City's intent to make a purchase under
30 this exception shall be posted electronically to the public for comment prior to the
31 approval of the purchase by the Board of Estimates.]

32 [(ii) In the event of an emergency of such a nature that the public welfare would be
33 adversely affected by awaiting the approval of the Board of Estimates, the Department
34 of Finance, upon application by the head of the municipal agency involved, may
35 proceed to obtain the supplies, materials, equipment, services, or public works
36 required without reference to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. A full
37 report of any this action shall be promptly submitted to the Board of Estimates.]

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1 *[(f) Contracts subject to Board of Estimates approval.]*

2 [All purchases of services other than professional services, of property other than real
3 estate or interests therein (except as may be otherwise provided by ordinance for
4 foodstuffs and related perishables), and all other contracts involving an expenditure
5 greater than an amount set under subsection (b) of this section, except those awarded by
6 the Board of Estimates pursuant to the provisions of subsection (h) of this section, made
7 by any municipal agency, in addition to compliance with other applicable provisions of
8 the Charter, shall be submitted to the Board of Estimates for its approval and shall be
9 binding upon the City only when so approved.]

10 [The Board of Estimates may adopt rules and regulations governing the procedures and
11 requirements to be followed by any municipal agency in making purchases or other
12 contracts involving an expenditure that does not require formal advertising under
13 subsection (c) of this section.]

14 *[(g) Prequalification of bidders.]*

15 [In contracting for any public work or the purchase of any supplies, materials, equipment,
16 or services for the City or by any municipal agency, the Board of Estimates may establish,
17 maintain, and modify rules, regulations, and standards for the prequalification of bidders.]

18 (C) ~~{(h)}~~ *Bid awards.*

19 {(1)(i) All bids made to the City in response to the formal advertising procedures
20 contained in this section, for materials, supplies, equipment, services, or public
21 works, or for any other purpose, unless otherwise provided in the Charter, shall be
22 opened by the Board of Estimates.}

23 {(ii) After opening the bids, the Board of Estimates shall award the contract, as an
24 entirety to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder or by items to the
25 respective lowest responsive and responsible bidders, or in the case of Requests
26 for Proposals to the highest scoring responsive and responsible bidder, or shall
27 reject all bids. However, whenever alternative bids are invited for two or more
28 different things, then, after all bids have been opened, the Board may select the
29 particular item that will be procured, and shall award the contract to the lowest
30 responsive and responsible bidder or in the case of Requests for Proposals to the
31 highest scoring responsive and responsible bidder for that particular item.}

32 {(iii) In the event of tie bids, the using agency, with written notice to the Department of
33 Finance, shall make a written recommendation and report to the Board of
34 Estimates setting forth all pertinent considerations and the reasons for its
35 recommendation. The Board, after also considering the recommendation of the
36 Department of Finance, may then award the contract in its discretion, as long as
37 the total cost to the City does not exceed the amount of the tie bid.}

38 {(iv) Once filed, bids are irrevocable.}

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{(v) Any recommendation that is made by any municipal agency to the Board of Estimates as to the appropriate award to be made by the Board is advisory only and not binding on the Board.}

{(vi) Notwithstanding the competitive bid provisions of this Charter, the Board of Estimates may adopt rules and regulations that establish uniform procedures for providing, on a neighborhood service, neighborhood public work, or neighborhood public improvement contract, limited bid preferences to responsive and responsible bidders who are residents of, or have their principal places of business in, that neighborhood.}

{(2)(i) All bids for construction contracts let for the Department of Public Works, the Department of General Services, and the Department of Transportation and any other contracts for public works shall be accompanied by a check or bid bond. For all other contracts, the Director of Finance shall implement policies and procedures to determine whether a bid bond is required for a contract, the term and face value of the bond, and the manner in which the bond shall be provided and refunded.}

{(ii) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (2), the check shall be a certified check of the bidder, a bank cashier's check, or a bank treasurer's check, drawn on a clearing house bank. The check shall be in an amount provided by ordinance, by the bid specifications, or by an order or regulation of the using agency. In the case of bid checks of \$5,000 or less, the check may be of any type drawn on any banking institution of the United States.}

{(iii) The bid bond shall be in the form and amount provided by the rules and regulations of the Board of Estimates, and shall be filed by the bidder with the Department of Finance.}

{(3)(i) The successful bidder promptly shall execute a formal contract, to be approved as to its form, terms, and conditions by the City Solicitor.}

{(ii) For all construction contracts let for the Department of Public Works, the Department of General Services, and the Department of Transportation and any other contracts for public works, the bidder shall execute and deliver to the Mayor a good and sufficient performance bond, irrevocable letter of credit, or certification that the successful bidder meets the requirements under the City's self-insurance program for performance coverage. For all other contracts, the Director of Finance shall implement policies and procedures to determine whether a performance bond is required for a contract, the term and face value of the bond, and the manner in which the bond shall be provided.}

{(iii) The bond, letter of credit, or certification shall be:}

{1. in an amount equal to the full contract price; or}

{2. for each year in a multi-year contract (other than a construction contract), in an amount equal to the estimated contract price for that year, as determined by the Director of Finance.}

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{(iv) Any successful bidder who fails to execute promptly and properly the required contract, performance bond, irrevocable letter of credit, or certification, as applicable, shall forfeit the amount deposited, or an equivalent amount under the bid bond. This amount shall be taken and considered as liquidated damages and not as penalty for the bidder's failure.}

{(4) When the successful bidder executes the contract and, if required, the performance bond, the bid checks shall be returned to all bidders or the equivalent amounts charged against their bid bond shall be released. If the City has deposited bid checks, the City shall reimburse these bidders in the amounts of the bid checks.}

{(5) If a bidder is not required to file a bid bond under the policies and procedures adopted by the Director of Finance and the bidder fails to execute and perform any contract awarded to that bidder, the exempted bidder shall forfeit the right to bid on any future City contract for a period of time determined by the Board of Estimates, and shall be liable for any costs incurred by the City as a result of the default.}

[(i) Local, small, and disadvantaged business enterprise programs.]

[The Mayor and City Council may, by ordinance, establish programs that grant purchasing preferences to local, small, or disadvantaged businesses and, for that purpose, waive or modify the application of this section (with the exception of subsection (a)) to certain transactions.]

[§ 12. Salary and wage scales; Work conditions.]

[(a) In general.]

{(1) The Board shall fix the salary or wage scales for the several classifications of the City employee in the Classified Civil Service, and such scales, so far as practicable, shall be uniform for all like classifications except that where a final decision of a board of arbitration convened to arbitrate unresolved negotiations between the City and the certified employee organization representing the fire fighters and fire officers has been rendered in any year, the amounts as determined shall be adopted by the Board of Estimates as the salary and wage scales for employees of the Fire Department.}

{(2) The Board shall also adopt such rules and regulations as it may deem appropriate to insure, so far as practicable, like working conditions for the employees in the several municipal agencies, including vacation and sick leave.}

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[(b) Multi-year collective bargaining agreements.]

[(1) The Board of Estimates may approve a collective bargaining agreement between the City and one or more of the Baltimore Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 734, the Baltimore Fire Officers, IAFF Local 964, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Council 67 (AFSCME Locals 44, 558, and 2202), the City Union of Baltimore, and the Baltimore City Lodge No. 3, Fraternal Order of Police, Inc., Units I and II, for a term of not less than 1 fiscal year and not more than 3 consecutive fiscal years, so long as the term of the collective bargaining agreement does not extend beyond the fiscal year in which the current Mayor's term of office ends.]

[(2) The Board shall annually include in the Ordinance of Estimates submitted to the City Council an amount sufficient to fund the salaries provided for in any collective bargaining agreement between the City and the local unions listed in paragraph (1) of this subsection.]

[§ 13. Command appearance of municipal officers.]

[The Board shall have power at any time to summon before it the heads of departments and their respective bureaus or divisions, all municipal officers, and members of commissions, and boards.]

[§ 14. Bonds of municipal officers.]

[Except as otherwise provided by State law, the Board of Estimates shall determine which officials of the City shall be bonded for the faithful performance of their duties and the form and amount of such bonds. All premiums on official bonds shall be paid by the City. All bonds executed in favor of the City shall be approved by the Mayor.]

[§ 15. Claims against or by City.]

[No private claims against the City shall be paid nor shall any claims held by the City be compromised or released except in accordance with procedures established by the Board of Estimates. Nothing contained in this section shall be held to apply to claims against the City or held by the City in any case where, by the express terms of any contract, an engineer, architect or other agent or representative of the City is authorized to decide as to such claims.]

[§ 16. Salaries of State's Attorney's Office.]

[The Board of Estimates is hereby authorized and empowered to fix the salaries of the State's Attorney, the Deputy State's Attorney, and Assistant State's Attorneys of Baltimore City, in amounts not less than those prescribed by the Constitution of Maryland.]

[§ 17. Expenditures for new improvements.]

[Except as provided in Section 61 of Article VII, no expenditure for any new improvement shall be made out of any appropriation in the Ordinance of Estimates unless the plans for such improvement are first submitted to and approved by the Board of Estimates.]

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§ 9. [§ 18.] Water, sanitary wastewater, and stormwater utilities.

(a) To be separate enterprises.

(1) Water, sanitary wastewater, and stormwater utilities each shall be conducted as a separate enterprise.

(2) Each of the utilities shall be financially self-sustaining and shall be operated without profit or loss to the other funds or programs of the City.

(b) Utility budgets; Agency budget estimates.

(1) Separate budgets, which shall include estimates of revenue and expense for the ensuing fiscal year, shall be prepared annually for the water, sanitary wastewater, and stormwater utilities. The actions of the Board of Estimates and the City Council on the utilities' budgets are subject to this section.

(2) The budget estimates of each agency of the City shall include items for the use of services provided by the water, sanitary wastewater, and stormwater utilities, as applicable.

(c) Interfund and other borrowing.

Nothing in this section prevents the following, if otherwise in accordance with law:

(1) interfund cash borrowings between the water, sanitary wastewater, and stormwater utilities to meet temporary cash requirements; or

(2) borrowings by these utilities from the General Fund or any other fund of the City.

(d) Transfer of employees.

Nothing in this section prevents:

(1) the transfer or assignment of employees from one utility to another utility or to any department, board, commission, or agency of the City; or

(2) the division of employees' time among the utilities or between a utility and any department, board, commission, or agency of the City.

(e) Supplemental legislation.

The Mayor and City Council may enact, from time to time, ordinances not inconsistent with this Charter, as necessary or desirable to implement the provisions of this section.

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PART II. BOARD OF ESTIMATES

§ 10. [1.] Establishment and organization.

(a) *In general.*

There shall be a Board of Estimates composed of the Mayor, President of the City Council, Comptroller, City Solicitor, and Director of Public Works, none of whom shall receive any additional salary as members of the Board.

The President of the City Council shall be President of the Board, and one of the members shall act as Secretary.

The Board may employ such employees as may be necessary to discharge its duties; their number and compensation shall be fixed in the Ordinance of Estimates.

(b) *Meetings.*

The first meeting of the Board in every year shall be called by notice from the Mayor or President of the City Council personally served upon members of the Board. Subsequent meetings shall be called as the Board may direct.

(c) *Representatives.*

If a member is unable to attend a Board meeting, that member's representative, as designated in the Charter, may attend and exercise the powers of the member. The Mayor may designate a municipal officer or member of the Mayor's personal staff to represent the Mayor and exercise the Mayor's power at Board meetings in the Mayor's absence.

§ 11. POWERS AND DUTIES.

(A) *IN GENERAL.*

THE BOARD OF ESTIMATES SHALL:

(1) AWARD CONTRACTS AND SUPERVISE ALL PURCHASING BY THE CITY; AND

(2) PERFORM DUTIES AND EXERCISE POWERS AS MAY BE DIRECTED BY ORDINANCE.

(B) *TO EXERCISE.*

THE BOARD SHALL, TO EXERCISE ITS POWERS AND PERFORM ITS DUTIES:

(1) SUMMON BEFORE IT THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS, OR DIVISIONS, MUNICIPAL OFFICERS, AND MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS; AND

(2) PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ANY ORDINANCE.

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Article VII. Executive Departments

Department of Finance

§ 8. Department of Finance: Budget preparation.

[In accordance with rules established by the Board of Estimates, the] THE Department shall prepare the preliminary operating budget for the consideration of the [Board of Estimates,] MAYOR, shall make reports and recommendations on the capital budget and capital improvement program, and shall otherwise participate in the making of the proposed Ordinance of Estimates.

§ 9. Department of Finance: Budget administration.

[Under the direction of the Board of Estimates, the] THE Director shall implement the Ordinance of Estimates. In the interest of economy and efficiency, the Director shall survey the administration and organization of municipal agencies to support the Director's recommendations to the [Board of Estimates] MAYOR on the budget requests of the agencies and the Director's reports to the Mayor on measures which might be taken to improve the organization and administration of City government.

Fire Department

§ 53. Fire Department Arbitration for fire fighters and officers.

(g) Decision – Implementation.

The decision of the majority of the board of arbitration thus established shall be final and binding upon the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and upon the certified employee organizations involved in the proceedings. No appeal therefrom shall be allowed. Such decision shall constitute a mandate to the Mayor of Baltimore City in respect to such matters which can be remedied administratively by him, and as a mandate to the Board of Estimates and the City Council with respect to matters which require legislative action necessary to implement the decision of the Board of Arbitration.

With respect to matters which require legislative action for implementation, such legislation shall be enacted within forty-five days following the date of the arbitration decision.

With respect to salaries and wage scales, the amounts determined by the final decision of the Board of Arbitration shall be included in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates in accordance with Article VI, Section [4(a),] 2(A), shall not be reduced by the City Council in accordance with Article VI, Section [7(a),] 4(A), and shall be adopted by the Board of Estimates as the salary and wage scales for employees of the Fire [Department in accordance with Section 12 of Article VI.] DEPARTMENT.

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Department of Planning

§ 72. Department of Planning: Commission – Powers and duties.

The Planning Commission:

- (j) shall submit for the consideration of the [Board of Estimates] MAYOR a recommended capital budget for inclusion in the Ordinance of Estimates, a recommended long-range capital improvement program, and a report explaining both, all of which shall be made public.

Article X. Office of the Inspector General

§ 5. Office of the Inspector General: Budget.

(c) Submission.

- (1) The budget approved by the advisory board pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be the Office budget the advisory board recommends to the [Board of Estimates.] MAYOR.
- (2) The advisory board, on behalf of the Office of the Inspector General, shall submit the recommended budget [to the Board of Estimates in a timely manner in order for the recommended budget to be considered for inclusion in the Ordinance of Estimates.] FOR THE MAYOR'S CONSIDERATION IN ASSEMBLING THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That each provision repealed by this Resolution shall, upon approval by the legal and qualified voters of Baltimore City, become fully effective upon the date of the next General Election conducted in Baltimore City or upon passage of an ordinance or promulgation of a regulation governing the subject matter of the repealed provision, whichever is sooner. To the extent of any inconsistency or conflict between such ordinance or regulation and the repealed provision, the ordinance shall prevail.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the proposed amendments to Article IV, § 5 {"Approval and veto of legislation"} of the City Charter shall, upon approval by the legal and qualified voters of Baltimore City, become fully effective on December 5, 2028.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all provisions of this amendment to the City Charter not contemplated by Section 3 or Section 4 shall, upon approval by the legal and qualified voters of Baltimore City, become effective in accordance with Article XI-A, § 5 of the Maryland Constitution from and after the 30th day after the General Election on November 3, 2026.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this proposed amendment to the City Charter be submitted to the legal and qualified voters of Baltimore City, for adoption or rejection, in accordance with Article XI-A, § 5 of the Maryland Constitution, in the form specified by the City Solicitor.

Council Bill 26-0191

Certified as duly passed this 15th day of June, 2026



President, Baltimore City Council

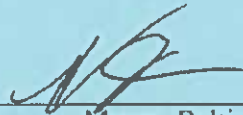
Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,

this 16th day of June, 2026



Chief Clerk

Approved this 25 day of June, 2026



Mayor, Baltimore City

Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency.

this 17th day of June, 2026

A TRUE COPY
Director of Finance



Chief Solicitor