

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH,  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
ANDRE M. DAVIS, CITY SOLICITOR  
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SUITE 101, CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

June 15, 2018

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 18-0262 - Charter Amendment - Commission Recommendations  
for the Board of Estimates Article

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has been asked to review City Council Bill 18-0262 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill amends the City Charter and modernizes various public notice provisions, including removing mandatory requirements for notice to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in Baltimore City; creates a process for the Board of Estimates to set the thresholds for contracts required to be formally advertised or be approved by the Board of Estimates; equalizes the requirements for both bids and proposals sought by the City; allows for earlier notice of City contracts; increases the Board of Estimates flexibility in opening and awarding contracts; establishes a process to allow for more varied forms of bid security rather than just bid bonds; removes certain provisions from the Charter relating to bonding for City employees and the submission of plans to the Board of Estimates that are more appropriately handled by regulation; allowing for the State's Attorney of Baltimore City to be covered by the Compensation Commission for Elected Officials; sets a special effective date; and submits this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

The substance of the bill presents no legal impediments.

Under Article XI-A, Section 5 of the Maryland Constitution, a resolution of the Mayor and City Council, such as City Council Bill 18--262, is an appropriate method of initiating an amendment to the Baltimore City Charter. The Law Department, therefore, approves the resolution for form and legal sufficiency as drafted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor K. Tervala', written over a horizontal line.

Victor K. Tervala  
Chief Solicitor

**cc:** Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor  
Karen Stokes, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Kyron Banks, Mayor's Legislative Liaison  
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division  
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor  
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor