

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 05-0085R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Mitchell, D’Adamo, Holton, Kraft, Young, Welch, Reisinger,
Curran, President Dixon, Harris

Introduced and read first time: September 19, 2005

Assigned to: Education, Housing, Health, and Human Services Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **The Baltimore City Charter School Board**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting that the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegation ask the 2006
4 Session of the Maryland General Assembly to amend the current Charter School Legislation
5 to allow the Baltimore City to create the Baltimore City Charter School Board.

6 **Recitals**

7 The Maryland Public Charter School Act was passed in 2003. It identifies the 24 local
8 boards of education as the primary chartering authorities in the State of Maryland. With
9 identification of local boards of education as the primary chartering authority, the Maryland law
10 places important responsibilities on local boards of education to ensure an environment that
11 assists applicants in developing strong and effective public charter schools. Due to the
12 “restructuring” of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Maryland State Board of
13 Education has become the chartering authority for Baltimore City Schools.

14 There is a new vibrancy in Baltimore City, and one of the most important factors involved in
15 bringing more people to the City is educational choice. When choosing a place to live, parents
16 look for a place where they have the ability to be selective about their child’s public education.
17 The 10 new charter schools opening this year is a good start; however we can do more. Our
18 children deserve every opportunity that we as lawmakers and legislators can offer them. Charter
19 schools are the first step in revamping our local education system.

20 Despite the hard work and efforts of the State Board of Education, our educational system is
21 still faltering. Baltimore City needs the educational resources that charter schools can provide.
22 A local board for charter schools will be more in tune with the needs of the ever growing and
23 ever changing Baltimore City community and will help provide more valued educational
24 program for Baltimore City children now and in the future.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
26 Body requests that the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegation ask the 2006 Session of the
27 Maryland General Assembly to amend the current Charter School Legislation to allow the
28 Baltimore City Government to create The Baltimore City Charter School Board.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
2 Baltimore City Senate Delegation, the Baltimore City House Delegation, the Maryland State
3 Board of Education and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the Council.