

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 19-0441
(Charter Amendment)
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: President Scott, Councilmembers Dorsey, Pinkett, Bullock, Henry, Burnett,
Cohen, McCray, Stokes, Reisinger, Costello, Schleifer, Clarke, Sneed

Introduced and read first time: September 9, 2019

Assigned to: Judiciary Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning

2 **Charter Amendment – Charter Review Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a Charter Review Commission be appointed at least once every 10
4 years to review the City Charter and make recommendations for necessary deletions,
5 additions, or revisions; providing for the term of the Commission; setting forth the manner of
6 the Commission’s appointment; providing for the Commission’s duties; requiring that the
7 Commission be dissolved on the completion of its duties; and submitting this amendment to
8 the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

9 BY proposing to add

10 Article XI - Charter Review Commission
11 Section(s) 1 to 6
12 Baltimore City Charter
13 (1996 Edition)

14 **SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
15 City Charter is proposed to be amended to read as follows:

16 **Baltimore City Charter**

17 **Article XI. CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION**

18 **§ 1. COMMISSION ESTABLISHED.**

19 A CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS
20 ARTICLE AT LEAST EVERY 10 YEARS FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF THIS ARTICLE.

21 **§ 2. TERM OF COMMISSION.**

22 A CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION SHALL BE APPOINTED NO LATER THAN MAY 1 IN A YEAR
23 PRECEDING A CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION AND COMPLETE ITS DUTIES AND BE DISSOLVED NO
24 LATER THAN MAY 31 IN THE YEAR FOLLOWING ITS APPOINTMENT.

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

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1 **§ 3. COMPOSITION.**

2 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

3 THE COMMISSION SHALL BE COMPOSED OF 9 REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE CITY APPOINTED
4 WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL AFFILIATION.

5 (B) *MANNER OF APPOINTMENT.*

6 THE MAYOR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL
7 EACH APPOINT 3 MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION.

8 (C) *INELIGIBILITY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS .*

9 EXCEPT FOR A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY, NO PERSON HOLDING ELECTING OFFICE MAY BE
10 APPOINTED TO THE COMMISSION.

11 (D) *CHAIR.*

12 THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

13 (E) *ADVISORY COMMITTEES.*

14 AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSION, ADVISORY COMMITTEES MAY BE APPOINTED TO
15 ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN ITS DUTIES.

16 **§ 4. DUTIES.**

17 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

18 THE COMMISSION SHALL REVIEW THE CHARTER, UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY
19 OF ITS CONTENTS, AND MAKE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE NECESSITY
20 FOR DELETING, ADDING, OR AMENDING ITS PROVISIONS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE
21 EFFICIENCY AND OPERATIONS OF CITY GOVERNMENT.

22 (B) *PUBLIC HEARING AND TESTIMONY.*

23 PRIOR TO DELIVERING ITS REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL, THE
24 COMMISSION SHALL HOLD AT LEAST 1 PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC TESTIMONY
25 ABOUT THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

26 **§ 5. REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.**

27 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

28 THE COMMISSION SHALL DELIVER A WRITTEN REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND
29 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL.

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1 (B) *PUBLIC HEARING.*

2 THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AT WHICH THE COMMISSION SHALL
3 PRESENT ITS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

4 **§ 6. DISSOLUTION.**

5 ON COMPLETING THE ACTIVITIES REQUIRED IN §5 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE COMMISSION SHALL
6 BE DEEMED DISSOLVED AND ITS WORK COMPLETED.

7 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this proposed amendment to the City
8 Charter be submitted to the legal and qualified voters of Baltimore City, for adoption or rejection,
9 in accordance with Article XI-A, § 5 of the Maryland Constitution, in the form specified by the
10 City Solicitor.