



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Equity and Structure

Bill 20-0550

Charter Amendment – City Council Modernization and Re-Structuring Act

Sponsor: The Council President

Introduced: July 6, 2020

Purpose:

For the purpose reducing the size of the City Council; requiring that the City Council Vice-President be elected by the voters of Baltimore City; specifying that in the case of a vacancy in the position of City Council President, the Vice-President shall become President; conforming and clarifying related provisions; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

Effective: Upon the approval of the legal and qualified voters of Baltimore City.

Agency Reports

Department of Law	Comments
Department of Finance	Not Favorable

Analysis

BY proposing to amend

Article III - City Council Section(s) 1, 2, 4, 10; Baltimore City Charter (1996 Edition)

Background

Since 1922, the Baltimore City Council had consisted of 18 council members, with three members elected from each of the six districts. In November 2002, voters of Baltimore City approved a Charter Amendment to create a new structure for the Baltimore City Council. The restructured Council consist of 14 council members, each elected from a single-member district.

Current Language	Proposed Language – 20-0550
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council shall consist of 14 members in addition to the President. • There shall be 14 districts with one member elected from each district. • At the same time that they elect the members, the voters shall elect from Baltimore City at large, a person to be the President of the City Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council Vice President shall be elected from Baltimore City at Large. • The Council shall consist of 5 members. There shall be 5 districts with one member elected from each district.

Local Jurisdiction Comparison Chart

	Baltimore City	Baltimore County	Anne Arundel County	Prince Georges County
Council Structure	1 Council President 14 Single member Districts	1 Council Chair 7 Single member Districts	1 Council Chair 1 Council Vice Chair 7 Council Districts	2 At-Large Seats 9 Council Districts
Jurisdiction Population	Approx. 602,495 (2018)	Approx. 828,431 (2018)	Approx. 576,031 (2018)	Approx. 909,308 (2018)

National Comparison Chart

	Baltimore City	Los Angeles, California	Atlanta, Georgia	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Council Structure	1 Council President 14 Single member Districts	1 Council President 1 President Pro Tempore (<i>both selected from the existing body</i>) 15 Single member Districts	1 Council President 12 Single member Districts 3 At-Large members	The Council President is elected by the members of the council. 10 Single member Districts 7 At-Large Council members
Jurisdiction Population	Approx. 602,495 (2018)	Approx. 3,990,456 (2018)	Approx. 1,345,047 (2018)	Approx. 1,584,138 (2018)

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Charter, Agency Reports

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