



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Equity and Structure

Bill 20-0563

Charter Amendment – Disposition of City-Owned Real Property

Sponsor: Isaac Schleifer
Introduced: July 20, 2020

Purpose:

For the purpose of amending the City Charter to repeal the City's general authority to dispose of City-owned real property at private sale; 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	
Department of Finance	
Department of Housing and Community Development	
Department of Real Estate	
Department of Transportation	
Office of the Comptroller	

Analysis

Current Law:

Amend – Article V – Comptroller; Section(s) 5(b); Baltimore City Charter (1996 Edition)

Background

If enacted, Bill 20-0563 would modify the language in the Baltimore City Charter concerning the Disposition of City-Owned Property.

Standard Language in all Sales Ordinances:

For the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to sell, at either public or private sale, all its interest in certain property known as...

Current Language in the Charter:

(b) Disposition of City Property.

Any such disposition shall be authorized by ordinance, shall be approved by the Board of Estimates with the approval entered in its minutes, **and shall be made at public sale unless a private sale or other manner of disposition shall be expressly authorized by the Board of Estimates and entered in its minutes.**

This language provides the Mayor with the flexibility to determine if he/she would like to conduct the disposition process through a Request for Proposal (RFP) which is a public process, or if they would like to allow a private entity to purchase the property from the city through a non-public direct sale process.

Proposed Language Change in the Charter:

(b) Disposition of City Property.

(2)(III) [shall be] **made at public sale** [unless a private sale or other manner of disposition shall be expressly authorized by the Board of Estimates and entered in its minutes].

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

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

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Analysis Date: September 22, 2020

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