

**AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL BILL 26-0172
(1st Reader Copy)**

By: Charter Review Special Committee
{To be offered on the Council floor}

Amendment No. 1

{Removing the Board of Estimates from the budget process. Directing the Mayor to submit a proposed Ordinance of Estimates directly to the City Council. Eliminating the preliminary budget process. Making conforming changes throughout Charter to reflect that the Mayor and not the Board of Estimates submits the annual Ordinance of Estimates to the City Council.}

On page 1, after line 8, insert:

“BY proposing to amend
Article III – City Council
Section 15(e)
Baltimore City Charter
(1996 Edition)”;

and, on that same page, in line 24, strike “12” and substitute “11”; and, on page 2, strike in their entirety lines 3 through 5 and substitute:

“Sections 3, 5 through 9, 10, 11, and 18, respectively
to be
Sections 1, 2 through 6, 8, 9, and 10, respectively”;

and, on that same page, after line 17, insert:

“BY proposing to amend
Article VII – Executive Departments
Sections 8, 9, 53(g), and 72(j)
Baltimore City Charter
(1996 Edition)”;

and, on that same page, after line 39, insert:

“BY proposing to amend
Article X – Office of the Inspector General
Section 5(c)
Baltimore City Charter
(1996 Edition)”;

and, on page 3, after line 3, insert:

“Article III. City Council

§ 15. General counsel.

(e) Compensation; Expenses.

- (1) The General Counsel’s compensation shall be at least equal to that of a full-time Chief of the Law Department’s General Counsel Division.
- (2) The [Board of Estimates] MAYOR shall annually include in the Ordinance of Estimates submitted to the City Council an amount sufficient to fund the General Counsel’s compensation and necessary expenses.
- (3) The amount appropriated for the General Counsel’s compensation and expenses shall be in addition to and may not supplant, be deducted from, or serve as a basis for reducing any part of the operating budget of the City Council.”;

and, strike beginning with line 29 on page 5 down through and including line 16 on page 6; and, on page 6, in line 17, strike “3.” and substitute “2.”; and, on page 7, in line 9, strike “4.” and substitute “3.”; and, on page 9, in line 11, strike “5.” and substitute “4.”; and, on page 11, in line 7, strike “6.” and substitute “5.”; and, on page 12, in line 26, strike “7.” and substitute “6.”; and, on page 14, in lines 5 and 8, strike “8.” and “9.”, respectively, and substitute “7.” and “8.”, respectively; and, on page 15, in line 17, strike “10.” and substitute “9.”; and, on page 20, in line 25, strike “11.” and substitute “10.”; and, on page 21, in line 19, strike “12.” and substitute “11.”; and, on page 22, in line 10, strike “13.” and substitute “12.”; and, on page 5, strike in their entirety lines 1 through 10; and, on that same page, in lines 11 and 16, strike “(c)” and “(d)”, respectively, and substitute “(B)” and “(C)”, respectively; and, on that same page, in line 12, strike “Board of Estimates” and substitute “MAYOR”; and, on that same page, in line 14, strike “4” and substitute “3”; and, on page 6, in line 20, strike “Board” and substitute “MAYOR”; and, on that same page, in that same line, strike “its” and substitute “THE”; and, on that same page, in line 29, strike the first instance of “Board” and substitute “MAYOR”; and, on that same page, in that same line, strike the second instance of “Board” and substitute “PLANNING COMMISSION”; and, on that same page, in line 33, strike “Board of Estimates” and substitute “MAYOR”; and, on that same page, in that same line, strike “Board” and substitute “MAYOR”; and, on that same page, strike in their entirety lines 36 and 37; and, on page 7, in line 2, strike “Board” and substitute “MAYOR”; and, on that same page, strike in their entirety lines 7 and 8; and, on that same page, strike in their entirety lines 11 and 12;

and, on that same page, in lines 13 and 17, in each instance strike “Board” and substitute “MAYOR”; and, on that same page, in line 25, strike “Board of Estimates” and substitute “MAYOR”; and, on page 8, in line 7, strike “Board” and substitute “PLANNING COMMISSION”; and, on page 9, in lines 3 and 10, in each instance strike “Board of Estimates” and substitute “MAYOR”; and, on that same page, in line 27, strike “fixed by the Board” and substitute “SET BY THE MAYOR”; and, on page 10, in lines 10 and 11, strike “Board of Estimates;” and substitute “MAYOR;”; and, on that same page, in line 25, strike “Board of Estimates,” and substitute “MAYOR,”; and, on that same page, in line 28, strike “Board” and substitute “MAYOR”; and, on that same page, in line 29, strike “Board of Estimates.” and substitute “DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.”; and, on that same page, in line 31, strike “Board of Estimates” and substitute “DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE”; and, on page 11, in lines 1 and 4, in each instance strike “Board” and substitute “DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE”; and, on that same page, in line 29, strike “Board of Estimates” and substitute “DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE”; and, on that same page, in lines 32 and 33, strike “Board of Estimates,” and substitute “DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OR THE PLANNING COMMISSION,”; and, on page 12, in lines 6 and 15, in each instance strike “Board of Estimates,” substitute “DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OR THE PLANNING COMMISSION,”; and, on that same page, in line 25, strike “Board of Estimates.” and substitute “DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.”; and, on that same page, in line 31, strike “5(B)(3)” and substitute “4(B)(4)”; and, on page 13 in line 27, and on page 14 in line 2, in each instance strike “11” and substitute “10”; and, on page 13, in line 37, strike “Board of Estimates” and substitute “DIRECTOR OF FINANCE”; and, on page 14, in line 10, strike “Board of Estimates” and substitute “MAYOR”; and, on page 22, after line 22, insert:

“Article VII. Executive Departments

Department of Finance

§ 8. Department of Finance: Budget preparation.

[In accordance with rules established by the Board of Estimates, the] THE Department shall prepare the preliminary operating budget for the consideration of the [Board of Estimates.] MAYOR, shall make reports and recommendations on the capital budget and capital improvement program, and shall otherwise participate in the making of the proposed Ordinance of Estimates.

§ 9. Department of Finance: Budget administration.

[Under the direction of the Board of Estimates, the] THE Director shall implement the Ordinance of Estimates. In the interest of economy and efficiency, the Director shall survey the administration and organization of municipal agencies to support the Director’s recommendations to the [Board of Estimates] MAYOR on the budget requests of the agencies and the Director’s reports to the Mayor on measures which might be taken to improve the organization and administration of City government.

Fire Department

§ 53. Fire Department Arbitration for fire fighters and officers.

...

(g) Decision – Implementation.

The decision of the majority of the board of arbitration thus established shall be final and binding upon the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and upon the certified employee organizations involved in the proceedings. No appeal therefrom shall be allowed. Such decision shall constitute a mandate to the Mayor of Baltimore City in respect to such matters which can be remedied administratively by him, and as a mandate to the Board of Estimates and the City Council with respect to matters which require legislative action necessary to implement the decision of the Board of Arbitration.

With respect to matters which require legislative action for implementation, such legislation shall be enacted within forty-five days following the date of the arbitration decision.

With respect to salaries and wage scales, the amounts determined by the final decision of the Board of Arbitration shall be included in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates in accordance with Article VI, Section [4(a),] 2(A), shall not be reduced by the City Council in accordance with Article VI, Section [7(a),] 5(A), and shall be adopted by the Board of Estimates as the salary and wage scales for employees of the Fire [Department in accordance with Section 12 of Article VI.] DEPARTMENT.

Department of Planning

§ 72. Department of Planning: Commission – Powers and duties.

The Planning Commission:

...

- (j) shall submit for the consideration of the [Board of Estimates] MAYOR a recommended capital budget for inclusion in the Ordinance of Estimates, a recommended long-range capital improvement program, and a report explaining both, all of which shall be made public.

...”;

and, on page 27, after line 37, insert:

“Article X. Office of the Inspector General

§ 5. Office of the Inspector General: Budget.

(c) Submission.

- (1) The budget approved by the advisory board pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be the Office budget the advisory board recommends to the [Board of Estimates.] MAYOR.
- (2) The advisory board, on behalf of the Office of the Inspector General, shall submit the recommended budget [to the Board of Estimates in a timely manner in order for the recommended budget to be considered for inclusion in the Ordinance of Estimates.] FOR THE MAYOR’S CONSIDERATION IN ASSEMBLING THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES.”;

and, on page 22, strike in their entirety lines 13 and 14; and, on that same page, in lines 15 and 16, respectively, strike “(2)” and “(3)”, respectively, and substitute “(1)” and “(2)”, respectively.

Amendment No. 2

{Revise the date by which the Board of Estimates shall submit to the City Council the proposed Ordinance of Estimates from April 15th to April 30th. }

On page 5, in line 15, strike “15” and substitute “30”.

Amendment No. 3

{Stating, for the sake of clarity, that the budget process terminates on the start of the fiscal year to which the proposed Ordinance of Estimates is applicable. Amendment requested by the Department of Law. }

On page 5, after line 22, insert:

“(E) VETO AND OVERRIDE.

- (1) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROCESS FOR VETO AND RECONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION ESTABLISHED IN ARTICLE IV, § 5 OF THIS CHARTER, THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL SHALL ADOPT THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR TO WHICH IT IS APPLICABLE.
- (2) THE CITY COUNCIL MAY NOT RECONSIDER AN ITEM OF APPROPRIATION CONTAINED IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES AND VETOED BY THE MAYOR AFTER THE START OF THE FISCAL YEAR TO WHICH THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES IS APPLICABLE.”.

Amendment No. 4

{Eliminating the requirement to publish the proposed Ordinance of Estimates in two daily newspapers. Requiring the Mayor to make public the proposed Ordinance of Estimates in a manner accessible to all City residents.}

On page 7, strike beginning with “publish” in line 14 down through and including “City.” in line 15 and substitute “MAKE PUBLIC A COPY OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES IN A MANNER ACCESSIBLE TO ALL CITY RESIDENTS.”.

Amendment No. 5

{Revising provisions relating to the creation of non-lapsing funds by ordinance to reflect that the Ordinance of Estimates does not itself appropriate money for non-lapsing funds, rather the amounts dedicated to non-lapsing funds are included as special revenue sources in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates. Amendment recommended in Department of Law bill report dated April 14, 2026. Page 3 of 6.}

On page 9, in lines 21 and 22, in each instance, strike the bracket; and, on that same page, strike in their entirety lines 23 and 24; and, on page 10, in line 13, in each instance, strike the bracket; and, on that same page, in that same line, strike “(III), OR (IV)”;

and, on page 14, in line 7, strike “ORDINANCE.” and substitute “ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATION IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES OR A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION.”.

Amendment No. 6

{For the sake of internal consistency, amendment recommended in Department of Law bill report dated April 14, 2026. Pages 3 and 4 of 6.}

On page 10, in line 20, strike “CONTINGENT” and substitute “CONDITIONAL”.

Amendment No. 7

{Reverting Article VI, § 10 {Salaries”} to its currently effective form. Amendment recommended in the Department of Law bill report dated April 14, 2026.}

On page 14, in lines 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27 through 31, and 33, in each instance, strike the bracket; and, on that same page, in lines 10, 16, and 18, respectively, strike “(A)”, “(B)”, and “(C)”, respectively; and, on that same page, in line 10, strike “Board of Estimates” and substitute “MAYOR”; and, on page 15, in lines 1, 2, 7, 8, 10 through 14, and 16, in each instance, strike the bracket.

Amendment No. 8

{To exercise its powers and perform its duties, requiring the Board of Estimates to summon before it the heads of departments and promulgate rules and regulations

On page 22, in line 18, strike “MAY,” and substitute “SHALL.”

Amendment No. 9

{Amendment recommended in Department of Law bill report dated April 14, 2026. Pages 5 and 6 of 6.}

On page 28, in line 8, strike “shall become effective on January 1, 2027.” and substitute “shall, upon approval by the legal and qualified voters of Baltimore City, become effective in accordance with Article XI-A, § 5 of the Maryland Constitution from and after the 30th day after the General Election on November 3, 2026.”.

Amendment No. 10

{Authorize the Director of the Department of Finance or the Planning Commission to submit additional recommendations to the City Council after the introduction of the Ordinance of Estimates by the Council President to provide new information regarding the availability of certain funds for appropriation. Authorize the City Council to reduce, eliminate, increase, or add amounts to the Ordinance of Estimates as may be requested by the Director of Finance or the Planning Commission. As may be amended under these provisions, authorizing the City Council to exceed the total amount of the Operating Budget or the Capital Budget as proposed by the Mayor to the City Council.}

On page 7, after line 8, insert:

“(C) RECOMMENDATIONS AFTER INTRODUCTION.

THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OR THE PLANNING COMMISSION MAY SUBMIT ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL AFTER THE DATE THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES IS INTRODUCED BY THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, BUT BEFORE THE PASSAGE OF THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING NEW INFORMATION REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN FUNDS FOR APPROPRIATION.”;

and, on page 10, after line 13, insert:

“(3) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (B)(2)(II)(A) OF THIS SECTION, BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF ITS MEMBERS, THE CITY COUNCIL MAY INCREASE ITEMS OF APPROPRIATION OR ADD ANY AMOUNT FOR ANY NEW PURPOSE IN THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES AS MAY BE RECOMMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OR THE PLANNING COMMISSION UNDER § 2(C) OF THIS ARTICLE.”;

and, on that same page, in line 14, strike “(3)” and substitute “(4)”.

Amendment No. 11

{Eliminating the requirement that the City Council enact revenue ordinances, including full rate property taxes, after the passage of the Ordinance of Estimates.}

On page 10, in line 23, strike “As soon as practicable after the passage of the Ordinance of Estimates the” and substitute “THE”.