

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 07-0739  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Mitchell, Kraft, Middleton, Conaway, Welch, Clarke, Young,  
D'Adamo, Curran, Harris, Reisinger, Crider

Introduced and read first time: July 16, 2007

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Office of  
Economic Development, Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Baltimore City Hispanic Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Baltimore City Hispanic Commission; providing for the  
4 appointment, terms, powers, and duties of the Commission; providing for staff to the  
5 Commission; and generally relating to assisting the City's Hispanic population.

6 BY adding

7 Article 1 - Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies  
8 Section(s) 52-1 through 52-8, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle,  
9 "Subtitle 52. Baltimore City Hispanic Commission"  
10 Baltimore City Code  
11 (Edition 2000)

12 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
13 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

14 **Baltimore City Code**

15 **Article 1. Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies**

16 **Subtitle 52. Baltimore City Hispanic Commission**

17 **§ 52-1. COMMISSION ESTABLISHED.**

18 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

19 THERE IS A BALTIMORE CITY HISPANIC COMMISSION.

20 (B) *COMPOSITION.*

21 THE COMMISSION COMPRISES 9 MEMBERS, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR IN  
22 ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE IV, § 6 OF THE CITY CHARTER.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 **§ 52-2. PURPOSE.**

2 THE HISPANIC COMMISSION IS DEDICATED TO:

- 3 (1) IDENTIFYING AND DEFINING ISSUES CONCERNING THE RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF  
4 BALTIMORE’S HISPANIC COMMUNITY.
- 5 (2) ADVISING THE MAYOR AND CITY AGENCIES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELEVANT  
6 POLICIES, PLANS, AND PROGRAMS THAT AFFECT HISPANICS.
- 7 (3) ADVISING THE CITY COUNCIL ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE CITY’S HISPANIC  
8 COMMUNITY.
- 9 (4) ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CITY AGENCIES AND MEMBERS  
10 OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

11 **§ 52-3. TERMS, COMPENSATION, VACANCIES.**

12 (A) *TERMS OF OFFICE.*

- 13 (1) COMMISSION MEMBERS SERVE FOR A TERM OF 4 YEARS, CONCURRENT WITH THE  
14 TERMS OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL.
- 15 (2) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS  
16 APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

17 (B) *COMPENSATION; EXPENSES.*

18 MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION:

- 19 (1) ARE NOT ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR SERVICES; BUT
- 20 (2) ARE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED, AS PROVIDED IN THE  
21 ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES.

22 (C) *VACANCIES.*

23 A MEMBER APPOINTED TO FILL A VACANCY IN AN UNEXPIRED TERM OR TO SUCCEED A  
24 MEMBER WHO IS HOLDING OVER SERVES ONLY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THAT TERM.

25 **§ 52-4. OFFICERS; COMMITTEES.**

26 (A) *OFFICERS.*

- 27 (1) THE MAYOR SHALL DESIGNATE A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION TO SERVE AS ITS  
28 CHAIR.
- 29 (2) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION MAY SELECT ANY OTHER OFFICERS THEY CONSIDER  
30 NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE.

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1 (B) *COMMITTEES.*

2 THE CHAIR MAY APPOINT COMMITTEES TO ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN CARRYING OUT ITS  
3 FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES.

4 **§ 52-5. MEETINGS; QUORUM.**

5 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

6 (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR AS FREQUENTLY AS  
7 REQUIRED TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES.

8 (2) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION CONSTITUTES A QUORUM FOR THE  
9 TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS.

10 (3) AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE BY THE MAJORITY OF A QUORUM IS NEEDED FOR ANY OFFICIAL  
11 ACTION.

12 (B) *RULES OF PROCEDURE.*

13 THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT RULES OF PROCEDURE TO GOVERN ITS MEETINGS AND  
14 OPERATIONS.

15 (C) *FAILURE TO ATTEND MEETINGS.*

16 IF ANY MEMBER IS ABSENT FROM REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS MORE THAN 3 TIMES  
17 IN 1 YEAR, NOT COUNTING ABSENCES EXCUSED BY THE CHAIR:

18 (1) THE MEMBER IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE RESIGNED; AND

19 (2) THE CHAIR SHALL REQUEST THE MAYOR TO FILL THE RESULTANT VACANCY.

20 **§ 52-6. PERSONNEL; BUDGET.**

21 (A) *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.*

22 (1) THE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT A PROPERLY QUALIFIED PERSON AS ITS EXECUTIVE  
23 DIRECTOR.

24 (2) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS ENTITLED TO A SALARY, AS PROVIDED IN THE  
25 ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES.

26 (3) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL PERFORM THE DUTIES THAT THE COMMISSION  
27 PRESCRIBES.

28 (B) *STAFF.*

29 (1) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY EMPLOY A STAFF AS PROVIDED IN THE ORDINANCE OF  
30 ESTIMATES.

31 (2) STAFF MEMBERS SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE.

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1 (C) *VOLUNTEERS.*

2 THE COMMISSION MAY ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF VOLUNTEER WORKERS AND  
3 CONSULTANTS, WITHOUT SALARY, AS IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY FROM TIME TO TIME.

4 (D) *BUDGET.*

5 THE COMMISSION MAY EXPEND FUNDS AS AUTHORIZED IN THE ORDINANCE OF  
6 ESTIMATES.

7 **§ 52-7. POWERS AND DUTIES.**

8 (A) *ASSISTANCE TO HISPANIC POPULATION.*

9 THE COMMISSION SHALL ASSIST HISPANICS WHO RESIDE IN THE CITY IN MATTERS  
10 RELATING TO:

- 11 (1) EDUCATION OR WORKFORCE TRAINING;  
12 (2) HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES;  
13 (3) SPECIAL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES PROVIDED BY FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS  
14 AND REGULATIONS;  
15 (4) EMPLOYMENT; AND  
16 (5) ANY OTHER MATTERS.

17 (B) *INFORMATION RESOURCE.*

18 THE COMMISSION SHALL SERVE AS A RESOURCE FOR INFORMATION RELATING TO ISSUES  
19 AFFECTING BALTIMORE HISPANICS.

20 (C) *RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.*

21 THE COMMISSION SHALL:

- 22 (1) CONDUCT RESEARCH, POLICY ANALYSIS, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION AND  
23 EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON ISSUES AFFECTING HISPANICS; AND  
24 (2) INSTITUTE AND CONDUCT OTHER PROGRAMS, MEETINGS, AND CONFERENCES TO  
25 PROMOTE EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR HISPANICS

26 (D) *MONITOR WORKFORCE.*

27 THE COMMISSION SHALL:

- 28 (1) REVIEW AND MONITOR THE CONDITIONS OF HISPANICS IN THE WORKFORCE IN  
29 BALTIMORE CITY; AND  
30 (2) DIRECT ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS FACING HISPANICS IN THE WORKFORCE.

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1 (E) *ADVISE AND COUNSEL.*

2 THE COMMISSION SHALL:

3 (1) ADVISE AND COUNSEL THE MAYOR, THE CITY COUNCIL, AND THE VARIOUS  
4 DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF THE CITY ON ALL ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE  
5 HISPANIC COMMUNITY; AND

6 (2) RECOMMEND PROGRAMS AND LEGISLATION IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY AND  
7 PROPER.

8 (F) *EVALUATE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.*

9 THE COMMISSION SHALL REVIEW AND EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF EXISTING AND  
10 PROPOSED POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND LEGISLATION AFFECTING HISPANICS.

11 **§ 52-8. AGENCY COOPERATION.**

12  
13 AT THE REQUEST OF THE COMMISSION, ALL CITY OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES SHALL COOPERATE  
14 WITH THE COMMISSION AND EXTEND THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES THAT THE COMMISSION  
15 REQUIRES.

16 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance  
17 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior  
18 Ordinance.

19 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30<sup>th</sup> day  
20 after the date it is enacted.