

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**COUNCIL BILL 24-0473**  
**(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: President Mosby, Councilmembers Costello, Schleifer, Middleton

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2024

Assigned to: Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee

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Referred to the following agencies: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Office of Equity and Civil Rights, Board of Elections

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Charter Amendment – Council Redistricting**

3 FOR the purpose of amending the process of redrawing City Council districts; and submitting this  
4 amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

5 BY proposing to amend

6 Article III - City Council  
7 Section 7(b)  
8 Baltimore City Charter  
9 (1996 Edition)

10 BY proposing to add

11 Article IV - Mayor  
12 Section 7(e)  
13 Baltimore City Charter  
14 (1996 Edition)

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

17 **Baltimore City Charter**

18 **Article III. City Council**

19 **§ 7. Council districts.**

20 (b) *Redistricting plan.*

21 [Following each census of the United States the Mayor shall prepare a plan for council  
22 redistricting. The Mayor shall present the plan to the City Council not later than the first  
23 day of February of the first municipal election year following the census.]

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

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1 [After the Mayor’s plan is presented to the City Council, the Council may adopt it or  
2 amend it or the City Council may adopt another plan. If no plan has been adopted by the  
3 City Council within sixty days after the Mayor’s plan is presented, the Mayor’s plan shall  
4 take effect as the redistricting ordinance.]

5 (1) *IN GENERAL.*

6 FOLLOWING EACH DECENNIAL CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES THE MAYOR SHALL  
7 PREPARE A REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR THE CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

8 (2) *PRESENTMENT OF THE REDISTRICTING PLAN.*

9 (I) PRIOR TO PRESENTING A REDISTRICTING PLAN TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE MAYOR  
10 SHALL:

11 (A) CIRCULATE THE REDISTRICTING PLAN TO THE PUBLIC IN AN EQUITABLE  
12 MANNER; AND

13 (B) HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS WHERE THE PUBLIC IS ABLE TO OFFER COMMENT  
14 ON THE REDISTRICTING PLAN.

15 (II) NO LATER THAN THE FIRST DAY OF JULY OF THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE  
16 PUBLICATION OF THE DECENNIAL CENSUS DATA, THE MAYOR SHALL PRESENT TO  
17 THE CITY COUNCIL:

18 (A) THE REDISTRICTING PLAN; AND

19 (B) ALL RELEVANT SOURCE MATERIALS USED TO CREATE THE  
20 REDISTRICTING PLAN.

21 (3) *INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION.*

22 (I) THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT SHALL INTRODUCE THE REDISTRICTING PLAN AS A  
23 RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

24 (II) THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL HOLD COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON THE REDISTRICTING  
25 PLAN.

26 (4) *PASSAGE.*

27 (I) UPON ITS PASSAGE, THE REDISTRICTING PLAN RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND  
28 CITY COUNCIL SHALL TAKE EFFECT.

29 (II) THE MAYOR MAY NOT VETO THE REDISTRICTING PLAN RESOLUTION OF THE  
30 MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

31 (5) *BOUNDARIES TO REMAIN IN EFFECT.*

32 THE ADOPTED COUNCIL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR THE  
33 ENTIRETY OF A REGULAR CITY COUNCIL SESSION.

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**Article IV. Mayor**

**§ 7. Approval or veto of legislation.**

(E) *EXCEPTION TO VETO AUTHORITY.*

THE MAYOR MAY NOT VETO A REDISTRICTING PLAN RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL PASSED UNDER ARTICLE III, §7(B) OF THIS CHARTER.

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