

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 17-0097  
(Charter Amendment)**

---

Introduced by: Councilmember Stokes, President Young, Councilmembers Bullock, Costello,  
Middleton, Henry, Pinkett, Scott, Burnett, Cohen, Dorsey, Sneed, Clarke, Reisinger

Introduced and read first time: July 17, 2017

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

---

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Department of  
Housing and Community Development

---

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning

2 **Charter Amendment – Tenant Legal Assistance Fund**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the establishment of a continuing, nonlapsing Tenant Legal  
4 Assistance Fund, to be used exclusively to assist low-income tenants with housing-related  
5 legal services; authorizing the Mayor and City Council to dedicate revenue to the Tenant  
6 Legal Assistance Fund by ordinance; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters  
7 of the City for adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing to add

9 Article I - General Provisions  
10 Section 15  
11 Baltimore City Charter  
12 (1996 Edition)

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

15 **Baltimore City Charter**

16 **Article I. General Provisions**

17 **§ 15. SPECIAL FUND FOR TENANT LEGAL ASSISTANCE.**

18 (A) *AUTHORIZATION.*

19 (1) BY ORDINANCE, THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE MAY ESTABLISH A  
20 CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND FOR PURPOSES OF ASSISTING LOW-INCOME TENANTS  
21 WITH HOUSING-RELATED LEGAL SERVICES.

22 (2) THESE PURPOSES INCLUDE SUPPORTING AND AUGMENTING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES  
23 THAT ARE DESIGNED TO:

24 (I) PROVIDE LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO TENANTS IN RENT COURT;

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

**Council Bill 17-0097**

- 1 (II) PROVIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO LOW-INCOME RENTERS FACING EVICTION;  
2 (III) ASSIST LOW-INCOME TENANTS INVOLVED IN DISPUTES WITH LANDLORDS; AND  
3 (IV) MAKE TENANTS AWARE OF THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS.

4 (B) *REVENUE SOURCES.*

5 THE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY CONSIST OF:

- 6 (1) MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND IN THE ANNUAL ORDINANCES OF ESTIMATES;  
7 (2) GRANTS OR DONATIONS MADE TO THE FUND; AND  
8 (3) PROCEEDS FROM FINES, FEES, SURCHARGES, OR OTHER REVENUES DEDICATED TO  
9 THE FUND BY ORDINANCE.

10 (C) *CONTINUING NATURE OF FUND.*

11 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS CHARTER, UNSPENT PORTIONS OF THE  
12 FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION:

- 13 (1) REMAIN IN THE FUND, TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THEIR ORDAINED PURPOSES;  
14 (2) DO NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL REVENUES OF THE CITY; AND  
15 (3) THEIR APPROPRIATIONS DO NOT LAPSE.

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