

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

GEORGE A. NILSON, City Solicitor  
101 City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

January 16, 2015

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Karen Randle, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 12-0111 – Charter Amendment – Vetoes

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 12-0111 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would resolve to amend Sections 5(b) and 5(d) of Article IV of the City Charter concerning mayoral veto power. Currently, three-fourths of the members of the City Council must vote to override a Mayoral veto. Charter, Art. IV, §5(b). Additionally, there is a separate process for items of appropriation.

This charter amendment would eliminate the separate process for items of appropriation and would reduce the number of votes needed to override a mayoral veto to two-thirds.

Under Article XI-A, Section 5 of the Maryland Constitution, a resolution, such as City Council Bill 12-0111, is an appropriate method of initiating an amendment to the Baltimore City Charter. The Law Department, therefore, approves the resolution for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

  
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Chief Solicitor

cc: George Nilson, City Solicitor  
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison  
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor  
Victor Tervalá, Chief Solicitor  
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor