

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 15-0471  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Spector, Henry  
Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2015  
Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning

2 **Charter Amendment – Multi-Member City Council Districts**

3 FOR the purpose of amending the City Charter of Baltimore City to reduce the number of  
4 Councilmembers and create multi-member City Council districts; and submitting this  
5 amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

6 BY proposing to amend

7 Article III - City Council  
8 Section(s) 2(b)  
9 Baltimore City Charter  
10 (1996 Edition)

11 **Recitals**

12 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore City traditionally has been represented by City Councilmembers from  
13 multi-member districts.

14 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore changed from the traditional multi-member districts to single member  
15 districts in 2004.

16 **WHEREAS**, A decade's worth of experience with the single-member City Council districts  
17 has now shown the benefits and costs of both types of districts.

18 **WHEREAS**, Single-member districts have failed to deliver the more competitive election races  
19 that their advocates believed they would bring.

20 **WHEREAS**, Instead, single-member districts have left entire swaths of the City unrepresented  
21 by any Councilmember for long stretches due to the retirement or incapacity of individual  
22 Councilmembers.

23 **WHEREAS**, Single-member districts have made it more difficult for constituent services and  
24 community improvements needing Council involvement to go forward by forcing activists and  
25 investors to work through a single office when they previously could count on multiple  
26 advocates.

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

