CITY OF BALTIMORE COUNCIL BILL 15-0471 (Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Spector, Henry Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2015

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning 2 **Charter Amendment – Multi-Member City Council Districts** FOR the purpose of amending the City Charter of Baltimore City to reduce the number of 3 Councilmembers and create multi-member 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(s) 2(b) 8 **Baltimore City Charter** 9 10 (1996 Edition) Recitals 11 WHEREAS, Baltimore City traditionally has been represented by City Councilmembers from 12 multi-member districts. 13 WHEREAS, Baltimore changed from the traditional multi-member districts to single member 14 districts in 2004. 15 WHEREAS, A decade's worth of experience with the single-member City Council districts 16 has now shown the benefits and costs of both types of districts. 17 WHEREAS, Single-member districts have failed to deliver the more competitive election races 18 that their advocates believed they would bring. 19 WHEREAS, Instead, single-member districts have left entire swaths of the City unrepresented 20 by any Councilmember for long stretches due to the retirement or incapacity of individual 21 Councilmembers. 22 23 WHEREAS, Single-member districts have made it more difficult for constituent services and community improvements needing Council involvement to go forward by forcing activists and 24 investors to work through a single office when they previously could count on multiple 25 26 advocates.

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1 2	WHEREAS , Multi-member districts also serve well to guard against parochialism by helping to keep the broader perspective of the City as a priority in the minds of Councilmembers.
3 4	WHEREAS , Moving from 14 single-member districts to 4 three-member districts would result in significant cost savings for the citizens of Baltimore.
5 6 7	WHEREAS, It has become apparent that multi-member districts provide more assurances that all Baltimoreans are well represented in making the decisions that will shape their neighborhoods and are a better fit for the needs of Baltimore's citizens.
8	Now, Therefore,
9 10	SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE , That the City Charter is proposed to be amended to read as follows:
11	Baltimore City Charter
12	Article III. City Council
13	
10	§ 2. Members.
14	§ 2. Members. (b) Number.