



June 5, 2012

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 12-0093 – Charter Amendment – Minority Party
Representation on Boards and Commissions

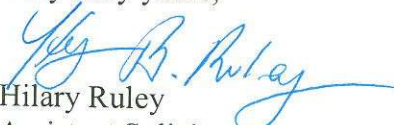
Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 12-0093 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would resolve to amend Section 8 of Article IV of the City Charter to change the requirement for minority party representation for members of boards or commissions. Currently, at least one member on a board or commission of less than five total members, or at least two members on larger boards or commissions must be registered voters of the minority party in Baltimore City. Charter, Art. IV, §8. Minority party is defined as the party that “had the second largest number of registered voters at the time of the municipal election next preceding the date of the appointment.” *Id.* This charter amendment would change that requirement so that those members could be anyone not registered with the majority party, defined as that party with the largest number of registered voters at the time of the municipal election next preceding the date of appointment.

The effect of this amendment will be to allow any person who is not a registered member of the majority party, including those registered independent, or not affiliated with any party, to satisfy this charter requirement.

Under Article XI-A, Section 5 of the Maryland Constitution, a resolution, such as City Council Bill 12-0093, 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,


Hilary Ruley
Assistant Solicitor

cc: George Nilson, City Solicitor
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor’s Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor
Victor Tervalá, Assistant Solicitor

