


R. C. C.

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cenname, Budget Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4774		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 19-0467—Charter Amendment-Vetoos-Timing of Override		

TO

DATE:

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

January 14, 2020

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 19-0467, Charter Amendment-Vetoos-Timing of Override, the purpose of which is to extend the period in which a mayoral veto can be overridden.

Background

Currently, the City Council can override a vetoed ordinance or resolution after five calendar days and within twenty days from when the legislation is returned by the Mayor to City Council. If there is no regular meeting held within this period, the vetoed legislation is not enacted. This Charter amendment extends the time period in which a veto can be overridden to the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting after the current override period.

Fiscal Impact

As established by the Charter, the Ordinance of Estimates, the City's budget, is first introduced to the Board of Estimates to review. The Board of Estimates submits the Ordinance to the City Council for review at least forty-five days before the start of the new fiscal year. The City Council must adopt the Ordinance, with any proposed reductions, at least five days before the start of the new fiscal year, by 11:59pm on June 25th. The approved budget goes into effect on July 1.

Under this legislation, there is the possibility that the extended time frame of the veto override could impact the implementation of the budget. If the Council passes a line-item reduction to the budget and the Mayor vetoes it, this could extend the time for the veto to be considered until after the beginning of the fiscal year. However, this scenario is unlikely because there are generally multiple City Council meetings scheduled in June to ensure the timely passage of the budget.

Conclusion

The Department of Finance, the Mayor, and the City Council have consistently worked together to ensure that any budget issues or concerns are addressed and meet the Charter's budget timeline, guaranteeing the City begins the fiscal year with an approved budget. While the legislation allows for a possible scenario that could inhibit the budget process, it is extremely unlikely that it would occur.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 19-0467.

cc: Henry Raymond
Matthew Stegman
Nina Themelis