

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 18-0222  
(FIRST READER)  
(Charter Amendment)**

---

Introduced by: Councilmembers Scott, Henry, Dorsey, Bullock, Burnett, Sneed, Middleton,  
Stokes, Clarke

Introduced and read first time: April 16, 2018

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

---

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance

---

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning

2 **Charter Amendment – Equity Assistance Fund**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the establishment of a continuing, nonlapsing Equity Assistance  
4 Fund, to be used exclusively to assist efforts that reduce inequity based on race, gender, or  
5 economic status in Baltimore; requiring that the annual Ordinance of Estimates include a  
6 specified appropriation for the Equity Assistance Fund; and submitting this amendment to the  
7 qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing to add

9 Article I - General Provisions

10 Section 15

11 Baltimore City Charter

12 (1996 Edition)

13 **SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
14 City Charter is proposed to be amended to read as follows:

15 **Baltimore City Charter**

16 **Article I. General Provisions**

17 **§ 15. SPECIAL FUND FOR EQUITY ASSISTANCE.**

18 (A) *AUTHORIZATION.*

19 (1) BY ORDINANCE, THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE MAY ESTABLISH A  
20 CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND FOR PURPOSES OF ASSISTING EFFORTS THAT REDUCE  
21 INEQUITY BASED ON RACE, GENDER, OR ECONOMIC STATUS IN BALTIMORE.

22 (2) THESE PURPOSES INCLUDE SUPPORTING AND AUGMENTING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES  
23 THAT ARE DESIGNED TO:

24 (I) PROVIDE EQUITY IN HOUSING;

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

**Council Bill 18-0222**

1 (II) PROVIDE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATION;

2 (III) ASSIST EFFORTS TO REDRESS PAST INEQUITIES IN CITY CAPITAL BUDGET  
3 SPENDING; AND

4 (IV) ELIMINATING STRUCTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL RACISM AND OTHER FORMS OF  
5 DISCRIMINATION BASED ON IMMUTABLE CHARACTERISTICS.

6 (B) *REVENUE SOURCES.*

7 THE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY CONSIST OF:

8 (1) A MANDATORY ANNUAL APPROPRIATION IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES OF AN  
9 AMOUNT EQUAL TO AT LEAST 3% OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR THE POLICE  
10 DEPARTMENT OF BALTIMORE CITY; AND

11 (2) GRANTS OR DONATIONS MADE TO THE FUND.

12 (C) *CONTINUING NATURE OF FUND.*

13 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS CHARTER, UNSPENT PORTIONS OF THE  
14 FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION:

15 (1) REMAIN IN THE FUND, TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THEIR ORDAINED PURPOSES;

16 (2) DO NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL REVENUES OF THE CITY; AND

17 (3) THEIR APPROPRIATIONS DO NOT LAPSE.

18 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this proposed amendment to the City  
19 Charter be submitted to the legal and qualified voters of Baltimore City, for adoption or rejection,  
20 in accordance with Article XI-A, § 5 of the Maryland Constitution, in the form specified by the  
21 City Solicitor.