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FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cename, Chief	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 #19-0381 – Charter Amendment – Removal of Elected Officials		

TO

DATE:

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

September 19, 2019

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 19-0381, Charter Amendment – Removal of Elected Officials, the purpose of which is to provide for the removal from office by the City Council of certain City elected officials under certain circumstances; to expand the potential individuals or entities entitled to prefer charges for consideration of removal from office; to conform and clarify related provisions; and to submit this amendment to Baltimore City voters for adoption or rejection.

Background

Currently, the City Council can remove the Council President and Comptroller from office with a two-thirds vote of the City Council. This charter amendment expands the Council’s removal ability to include City Council members and the Mayor, requiring three-fourths votes of the City Council to remove officials from these offices. The bill includes additional circumstances that individuals can be removed from office, specifically misconduct and felony in office.

Additionally, the bill expands current vacancy procedures for the Mayor and Comptroller to include removal from office. It requires the City Council to identify a procedure for establishing notice and hearings for removal of an elected official.

Financial Impact

There is no foreseeable fiscal impact to the city’s budget. If an elected official is removed from office, this position will be filled through the appointment process outlined in the City Charter, and the newly appointed individual will retain the same salary subject to any relevant increases or stipulations under City law.

Conclusion

For the reason stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose to City Council Bill 19-0381.

cc: Henry Raymond
Matthew Stegman
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