

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 20-0206R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Stokes, President Scott, Councilmembers Cohen, Middleton,
Costello, Pinkett, Burnett, Sneed, Bullock, Schleifer

Introduced and read first time: March 9, 2020

Assigned to: Equity and Structure Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Department of
Planning, Office of Civil Rights, Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success, Baltimore City
Board of Elections

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Citizen Charter Amendments Review Commission 2020**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission of citizens to review the Charter amendments that
4 are presently before the City Council.

5 **Recitals**

6 The Equity and Structure Committee of the City Council has been assigned 13 Charter
7 amendments for consideration. Many of these proposed amendments contain elements that may
8 conflict with other amendments or could drastically change how the City functions. The
9 amendments may impact everything from routine City operations to the City’s bond rating and
10 financial solvency.

11 Since these amendments have the potential to dramatically alter the City government’s
12 operations and structure, a Commission composed of citizens should be established to review the
13 amendments. Specifically, the Commission should include 15 citizen members, composed of 1
14 citizen from each Council District and 1 citizen as a Citywide representative. Each member
15 should be nominated by the City Council President and approved by the Mayor. The
16 Commission should include a representative from each of the following agencies – the
17 Department of Planning, the Law Department, the Department of Finance, the Office of Equity
18 and Civil Rights, and the Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success. The Commission
19 should also include the Dean of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law
20 and the Dean of the University of Baltimore School of Law. The Commission should analyze
21 how the 13 charter amendments interact and should provide the necessary commentary needed
22 for a robust public discussion of the merits of the amendments. By June 1, the Commission
23 should issue a report to the Mayor and City Council for consideration by the general public and
24 the City Council.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
26 Council establishes a Commission of citizens to review the Charter amendments that are
27 presently before the City Council.

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

Council Bill 20-0206R

1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
2 Director of the Department of Planning, the City Solicitor, the Director of the Department of
3 Finance, the Director of the Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Executive Director of the
4 Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success, the Dean of the University of Maryland Francis
5 King Carey School of Law, the Dean of the University of Baltimore School of Law, and the
6 Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.