



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Equity and Structure

Bill 20-0489

Charter Amendment – Board of Estimates – Composition

Sponsor: President Brandon Scott

Introduced: January 27, 2020

Purpose:

For the purpose of reconstituting the Board of Estimates to comprise the Mayor, Comptroller, and City Council President; correcting, conforming, and clarifying related provisions; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

Effective: Upon the approval of the legal and qualified voters of Baltimore City.

Agency Reports

Department of Law	Favorable
Department of Finance	
Department of Public Works	

Analysis

Current Law:

Article VI – Board of Estimates; Section(s) 1(a) and 10; Baltimore City Charter (1996)

Current Language:

(a) In general

There shall be a Board of Estimates composed of the Mayor, President of the City Council, Comptroller, City Solicitor, and Director of Public Works, none of whom shall receive any additional salary as members of the Board.

The President of the City Council shall be President of the Board, and one of the members shall act as Secretary.

The Board may employ such employees as may be necessary to discharge its duties; their number and compensation shall be fixed in the Ordinance of Estimates.

Proposed Change in Language:

(a) (1) There [shall be] IS a Board of Estimates, composed of the Mayor, THE President of the City Council, AND THE Comptroller, [City Solicitor, and Director of Public Works,] none of whom [shall] MAY receive any additional salary as members of the Board.

(2) The President of the City Council [shall be] IS President of the Board, and one of the OTHER members shall act as Secretary.

(3) The Board may employ [such] THE employees [as may be] necessary to discharge its Duties [;]. [their] THEIR number and compensation [shall be fixed] ARE AS PROVIDED in the Ordinance of Estimates.

This charter amendment will reduce the number of members on the Board of Estimates to the three citywide elected officials. By removing the City Solicitor and the Director of Public Works, the strong Mayor system of government will be weakened as the Mayor will no longer control the board responsible for city spending.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Charter, Agency Reports

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