
CITY OF BALTIMORE

Brandon M. Scott – Mayor
Zeke Cohen – Council President



Office of Council Services

Nancy Mead - Director
100 Holliday Street, Room 415
Baltimore, MD 21202

CHARTER REVIEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The Honorable Ryan Dorsey
CHAIR

HEARING NOTES

26-0172

Charter Amendment – Charter Committee Recommendations

Hearing Date: 4/27/2026

Hearing Start Time: 2:00 PM

Hearing End Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex

Total Estimated Attendance: 20

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTENTION
Final Vote:	4	1	0	0

Committee Members in Attendance:

- **Chair** Ryan Dorsey
 - Odette Ramos
 - Jermaine Jones
 - **Vice Chair** John Bullock
 - Zac Blanchard
-

MAJOR SPEAKERS

(This is NOT an attendance record.)

- Committee members
-

NOTES

- Chair Dorsey welcomed the Committee
 - Last Wednesday the committee reviewed three sets of amendments in a revised form
 - Dorsey
 - 7 amendments
 - Cohen
 - 4 amendments
 - MOGR
 - 6 amendments
 - Law can approve all amendments for form and legal sufficiency
 - Notes there is overlap between Dorsey and MOGR amendments
 - Dorsey 6 and MOGR 5
 - Dorsey is more inclusive

- Cohen 3 is also duplicative
- The Committee voted on Chair Dorsey’s amendments
 - Amendment 1 – removing the BOE from the budget process - approved
 - Amendment 2 – modernizing publication requirement for ordinance of estimates - approved
 - Amendment 3 – clarification related to creation of non-lapsing funds – approved
 - Amendment 4 – standardization of the use of “conditional” as it relates to conditioning of funds – approved
 - Amendment 5 – updating implementation language to reflect state law – approved
 - Amendment 6 – allowing for the Department of Finance or Planning Commission to recommend budget increases to the City Council – approved
 - Amendment 7 – decoupling the passage of the revenue ordinance from the ordinance of estimates – approved
- The Committee voted on Council President Cohen’s amendments
 - Amendment 1 – clarification on when the budget process must be completed - approved
 - Amendment 2 – retains provisions in the Charter stating that city agencies cannot hire beyond their appropriations – approved, 1 nay
 - Amendment 4 – clarifies that it is not optional for the BOE to establish rules and regulations in how it operates – approved
- The Committee discussed MOGR’s amendments
 - Amendment 1 – reverts all provisions with respect to the veto – not moved
 - Amendment 2 – eliminates conditional appropriations – not moved
 - Amendment 3 – eliminates creation of non-lapsing funds – not moved
 - Amendment 4 – revises date for budget submission to April 30 – approved
 - Amendment 5 – duplicative of Dorsey 6 – not moved
 - Amendment 6 – alters effective date to make all provisions effective on December 5, 2028 – not moved
- The Committee discussed the bill
 - CW Ramos offered several thoughts
 - The committee should consider breaking up the bill
 - The committee should continue to engage the Mayor’s team
 - Councilman Bullock noted that this has been discussed
 - Councilman Blanchard suggested that breaking up the bill would not accomplish the stated goals
 - Councilman Jones noted that he would be interested in examining how the bill could be broken up
- The Committee voted on the bill
- The Chair noted that he will offer an amendment to alter provisions related to the Mayor’s veto timelines
 - Clarifies that the Mayor will have no fewer than 14 days to consider a veto and provides the Council with two meetings to consider a veto override
 - Alters timeline for the adoption of the ordinance of estimates and potential veto of the ordinance of estimates
- CW Ramos suggested that the conditional appropriation be reviewed by an independent DLR

SEE FINAL VOTE RECORD IN BILL FILE

Hearing Packet in bill file? ----- **YES** **NO** **N/A**
Attendance Sheet in bill file?----- **YES** **NO** **N/A**
Vote Record in bill file? ----- **YES** **NO** **N/A**
Agency reports read? ----- **YES** **NO** **N/A**
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? ----- **YES** **NO** **N/A**
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the bill file? ----- **YES** **NO** **N/A**
Evidence of notification to property owners in bill file? ----- **YES** **NO** **N/A**

Notes by: Ethan Navarre
Notes Date: 4/27/2026

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Amendment 1. {Clarifies a minimum guarantee of time for the Mayor to deliver a veto. Changes the measure of when the City Council may consider a veto override, from number of days to number of meetings.}

On page 3, at the end of line 18 add, "Under no circumstance shall the mayor have fewer than 14 days to take such action." And in lines 27-28 of the same page strike "twenty-one calendar days" and replace it with "two city council meetings."

Amendment 2. {Changes the date by which the City Council shall adopt the annual Ordinance of Estimates. Changes the number of days the Mayor has to deliver a veto.}

On page 3, in line 23 strike "two" and replace with "four"; and on page 5, in line 19 strike, "five" and replace with "eight".