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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
EDUCATION, WORKFORCE AND YOUTH
COMMITTEE**

Mission Statement

The Committee on Education, Workforce and Youth (EWY) is responsible for creating opportunities for our young people, ensuring economic opportunity and prosperity for Baltimore's workforce, and supporting our most vulnerable neighbors. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include public education, labor relations, workforce development, employment, public parks, recreation, and youth affairs. Issue areas include, but are not limited to: education, including adult education, higher education, workforce development, labor, senior affairs, veterans, childcare, accessibility and disability issues, recreation and parks, and historical landmarks.

**The Honorable Robert Stokes, Sr.
Chairman**

PUBLIC HEARING

**THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024
10:00 AM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Council Bill 24-0489

Children Youth and Families - Youth Commission – Amendment

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BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth

Bill: 24-0489

Children Youth and Families - Youth Commission – Amendment

Sponsor: Councilmember Middleton

Introduced: February 12, 2024

Purpose:

For the purpose of amending the composition of the Youth Commission; providing for the compensation of Commission members; providing for the selection of certain officers; establishing the Executive Committee; providing for the membership and duties of the Executive Committee; requiring the adoption of a constitution and bylaws; updating the powers and duties of the Commission; providing for staff to the Commission; requiring agency cooperation with the Commission; and generally related to amending certain provisions related to the Commission.

Effective: The 30th day after the date it is enacted

Agency Reports

City Solicitor	None as of writing
Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success	None as of writing
Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement	Favorable
Dept. of Finance	Does not oppose

Analysis

Current Law

Baltimore City Code Article 1, Subtitle 22, Part II, establishes the structure and functions of the Youth Commission. Under the existing provisions:

1. **Composition:** The Commission comprises 17 voting members and 14 non-voting members, with voting members appointed by the Mayor and representing each of the 14 Council Districts, as well as three at-large youths recommended by the President of the City Council. Non-voting members include representatives from various city agencies and organizations.
2. **Terms and Compensation:** Voting members serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses. There are no specified term limits for members.
3. **Officers and Committees:** The Mayor designates a voting member as Commission Chair, and the Chair may select other officers. Committees may be appointed to assist in the Commission's functions and duties.
4. **Powers and Duties:** The Commission is tasked with developing and maintaining a 3-year plan of action, reviewing issues and programs for children and youth, advocating for services and programs, and submitting an annual report to the Mayor and City Council, among other duties.

The proposed amendment, Council Bill 24-0489, aims to amend several aspects of the current law:

1. **Composition:** The amendment seeks to reduce the age limit for youth members to 23 years old and impose a term limit of three terms for members.
2. **Compensation:** It proposes compensating members based on hours served, as provided in the Ordinance of Estimates.
3. **Officers and Committees:** The amendment establishes an Executive Committee within the Commission, comprising the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and an at-large member elected by the commissioners. This committee is tasked with overseeing the administration of the Commission.
4. **Powers and Duties:** The amendment updates the duties of the Commission, including creating a year-end annual report, reviewing resources available to children and youth, hosting public forums, advocating for resources, raising awareness of available resources, and reviewing existing and proposed policies, programs, and legislation.

Background

This bill represents a positive step forward in addressing the needs and concerns of its youth population. By restructuring the Youth Commission to include a more diverse representation of

youth from across the city, including those not enrolled in traditional educational programs, the bill ensures that a broader range of perspectives and experiences are considered in decision-making processes. Moreover, the introduction of compensation for Commission members acknowledges the value of their time and expertise, potentially attracting more dedicated individuals to serve.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note:

Information Source(s): Reporting Agencies, Bill 24-0489

Deontre Hayes

Analysis by: Deontre Hayes
Analysis Date: March 12, 2024

Direct Inquiries to: (410) 396-1260

**EDUCATION, WORKFORCE,
AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

AGENCY REPORTS

SEE ATTACHED



CITY COUNCIL BILL: 24-0489
BILL REPORT
CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES
YOUTH COMMISSION – AMENDMENT

TO: The Honorable Nick Mosby, President, Baltimore City Council
FROM: Dana Petersen Moore, Director, Office of Equity and Civil Rights
THRU: Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor’s Office of Government Relations
ANALYST: Dana Petersen Moore, Director, Office of Equity and Civil Rights and
Baltimore City Chief Equity Officer
DATE: February 25, 2024
POSITION: **Favorable**

*I believe the children are our future
Teach them well and let them lead the way
Show them all the beauty they possess inside
Give them a sense of pride to make it easier
Let the children’s laughter
Remind us how we used to be¹*

INTRODUCTION

The Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR) has reviewed and is herein reporting on City Council Bill 24-0489 – Children Youth and Families – Youth Commission - Amendment. The bill amends the composition of the Youth Commission, provides for the compensation of Commission members, provides for the selection of officers, establishes the Commission’s Executive Committee, provides for the membership and duties of the Executive Committee, requires the adoption of a constitution and bylaws for the Commission, updates the powers and duties of the Commission, provides for staff to the Commission, requires agency cooperation with the Commission, and generally amends certain provisions of the legislation related to the Commission.

Specifically, the bill repeals and re-ordains with amendments Article 1, §22-5 to §22-7 of the Baltimore City Code (Edition 2000) and adds Article 1, §22-8 to the Baltimore City Code (Edition 2000).

BACKGROUND

Legislation to establish Baltimore’s Youth Commission was first introduced in 2003. The legislation passed, with bill signing occurring in November 2004. Baltimore City’s Youth Commission began operations in December 2005.

The Commission’s has consistently been to give Baltimore City youth “the opportunity to provide advice, recommendations and information for the Mayor, City Council and municipal agencies on

¹From “The Greatest Love of All”. Originally written by Linda Creed, the song was originally recorded by George Benson in 1977 for the film biography of Muhammad Ali. The song was re-recorded by Whitney Houston in 1985.



CITY COUNCIL BILL: 24-0489
BILL REPORT
CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES
YOUTH COMMISSION – AMENDMENT

the development of community involvement, government practices and policies, programs and services that support children, youth and their families.”²

With its strong focus on understanding and communicating about the needs of Baltimore City’s youth, the Commission has and will continue to be an excellent platform for engaging with the full array of concerns impacting Baltimore youth. Equally important is the opportunity to learn government operations and group dynamics, and, ultimately, how to serve as a leader when opportunities arise.

IMPACT OF THE REPEAL AND RE-ORDAIN

The proposed legislation will clarify the Commission’s mission as well as the duties necessary to carry meet the mission. The legislation will have a positive impact on the composition, mission, actions, and operations of the Commission.

ANALYSIS

Council Bill 24-0489 seeks to empower the members of the Youth Commission in a manner consistent with the powers and duties of other Baltimore City commissions. The effect is expected to provide a clear roadmap for processes, procedures and operations related to the Commission, and for carrying out its work. The mandate that all City agencies work with and provide support for the Commission is critical in that it helps assure that the Commission has full access to the tools and resources it needs to succeed.

EQUITY ANALYSIS

Council Bill 24-0489 seeks to update the duties and goals of the Youth Commission in a way that brings it in alignment with the duties and goals of other Baltimore City Bboards and commissions. It does so in a manner that is absent of any apparent or perceived inequitable effect or impact.

CONCLUSION

The Office of Equity and Civil Rights supports a **favorable** committee report on City Council Bill 24-0489.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Petersen Moore

² SOURCE: Baltimore City Webpage for “Youth Commission/History”



CITY COUNCIL BILL: 24-0489

BILL REPORT

CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES

YOUTH COMMISSION – AMENDMENT

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cenname, Deputy Finance Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Finance Room 454, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	24-0489 Children Youth and Families – Youth Commission – Amendment		

DATE:

TO

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

February 26, 2024

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 24-0489, Children Youth and Families – Youth Commission – Amendment, the purpose of which is amending the composition of the Youth Commission; providing for the compensation of Commission members; providing for the selection of certain officers; establishing the Executive Committee; providing for the membership and duties of the Executive Committee; requiring the adoption of a constitution and bylaws; updating the powers and duties of the Commission; providing for staff to the Commission; requiring agency cooperation with the Commission; and generally related to amending certain provisions related to the Commission.

Background

The Baltimore City Youth Commission has existed in various forms since the late 1970’s. The purpose of the Youth Commission is to give the youth of Baltimore the opportunity to provide advice, recommendations, and information for the Mayor, the City Council, and municipal agencies on the development of community and government policies, programs, and services that support children, youth, and their families.

Fiscal Impact

The Finance Department does expect a minor fiscal impact from this legislation. The main spending stemming from this legislation, would be in the form of the compensation based on hours worked. This would be an ongoing expense that have to be built into the Ordinance of Estimates. If there are 17 members and each member works 24 hours a year assuming that each meeting of the Commission is two hours, at the minimum wage of \$15 an hour, would be \$6,120. The Finance Department understands the need for compensation for commission members, however MOCFS will need to institute a system to ensure that both the hours paid for are hours worked, and that the hours worked are reasonable and conform with state and federal laws involving minors in the workforce.

Conclusion

The Finance Department has reviewed 24-0489. The legislation largely clarifies the section of the city code dealing with the Youth Commission. The code and additions largely contain minimal one-time expenditures, like forums. MOCFS will need to ensure that Youth Commission members work reasonable hours.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 24-0489.

cc: Michael Mocksten
Nina Themelis

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 24-0489
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Middleton, Stokes, President Mosby, and Councilmember Cohen

At the request of: The Administration (Office of Children and Family Success)

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Workforce, and Youth Committee

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

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Children Youth and Families – Youth Commission – Amendment**

3 FOR the purpose of amending the composition of the Youth Commission; providing for the
4 compensation of Commission members; providing for the selection of certain officers;
5 establishing the Executive Committee; providing for the membership and duties of the
6 Executive Committee; requiring the adoption of a constitution and bylaws; updating the
7 powers and duties of the Commission; providing for staff to the Commission; requiring
8 agency cooperation with the Commission; and generally related to amending certain
9 provisions related to the Commission.

10 BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments

11 Article 1 - Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies
12 Sections 22-5 to 22-7
13 Baltimore City Code
14 (Edition 2000)

15 BY adding

16 Article 1 - Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies
17 Sections 22-8
18 Baltimore City Code
19 (Edition 2000)

20 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
21 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

22 **Baltimore City Code**

23 **Article 1. Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies**

24 **Subtitle 22. Children, Youth, and Families**

25 ***Part II. Youth Commission***

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Council Bill 24-0489

1 **§ 22-5. Composition.**

2 (a) *In general.*

3 The Commission comprises 17 [voting] members [and 14 non-voting members].

4 (b) [*Voting members*] *MEMBERS.*

5 (1) The [voting] members shall be appointed by the Mayor, in accordance with City
6 Charter Article IV, § 6, as follows:

7 (i) 1 youth from each of the 14 Council Districts, at least 1 of whom is not a
8 graduate of or then enrolled in a traditional educational program; and

9 (ii) 3 at-large youths recommended by the President of the City Council.

10 (2) Each [voting] member of the Commission must be a resident of Baltimore City.

11 (3) A youth may not be appointed to a term as a [voting] member of the Commission if
12 that youth would become [26] 23 years old during that term.

13 [(c) *Agency representatives.*]

14 [Each of the following entities shall designate a non-voting member to represent that
15 entity:]

16 [(1) Baltimore City Public School System.]

17 [(2) Department of Recreation and Parks.]

18 [(3) Health Department.]

19 [(4) Police Department (PAL Centers).]

20 [(5) Department of Social Services.]

21 [(6) State's Attorney's Office.]

22 [(7) Enoch Pratt Free Library.]

23 [(8) Mayor's Office of Employment Development.]

24 [(9) Housing Authority of Baltimore City.]

25 [(10) State Department of Juvenile Services.]

26 [(11) Family League of Baltimore City.]

27 [(12) Baltimore City Community College.]

Council Bill 24-0489

1 [(d) *Mayoral and Council representatives.*]

2 [(1) 2 non-voting, ex officio members are:]

3 [(i) the Mayor; and]

4 [(ii) the President of the City Council.]

5 [(2) The Mayor or Council President may designate another person to serve in her or his
6 place.]

7 **§ 22-6. Terms, organization, meetings, etc.**

8 (a) *Terms.*

9 (1) The term of a [voting] member expires at the end of the Mayor's term.

10 (2) At the end of a term, a [voting] member continues to serve until a successor is
11 appointed and qualifies.

12 (3) A MEMBER MAY ONLY SERVE A MAXIMUM OF 3 TERMS.

13 (b) *Compensation; expenses.*

14 The members of the Commission[:] SERVE WITH COMPENSATION BASED ON HOURS
15 SERVED, AS PROVIDED IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES.

16 [(1) serve without compensation; but]

17 [(2) are entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in the
18 performance of their duties, as provided in the Ordinance of Estimates.]

19 (c) [*Officers; committees.*] *OFFICERS.*

20 (1) The Mayor shall designate a [voting] member to serve as Commission Chair.

21 [(2) The Chair may select other officers.]

22 (2) AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH TERM AND AFTER ALL MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED, THE
23 COMMISSION CHAIR SHALL CALL A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION AND THE
24 COMMISSION SHALL ELECT MEMBERS TO SERVE AS:

25 (I) VICE CHAIR;

26 (II) TREASURER; AND

27 (III) SECRETARY.

28 [(3) The Chair may appoint committees to assist the Commission in carrying out its
29 functions and duties.]

Council Bill 24-0489

1 (D) *COMMITTEES.*

2 (1) THERE IS AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN THE COMMISSION THAT COMPRISES THE
3 FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

4 (I) THE CHAIR;

5 (II) THE VICE CHAIR;

6 (III) THE TREASURER;

7 (IV) THE SECRETARY; AND

8 (V) AN AT-LARGE MEMBER, WHO SHALL BE ELECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE
9 COMMISSIONERS AT THE COMMISSION'S FIRST MEETING.

10 (2) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

11 (I) MAY EXPEND FUNDS AUTHORIZED IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES OR ANY
12 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS;

13 (II) MAY APPOINT COMMITTEES TO ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN CARRYING OUT ITS
14 FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES; AND

15 (III) SHALL GENERALLY OVERSEE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMISSION.

16 (E) [(d)] *Meetings; quorum.*

17 (1) The Commission shall meet on the call of the Chair as frequently as required to
18 perform its duties, but not less than [6 times nor more than 10 times each year] 1 TIME
19 EACH MONTH.

20 (2) A majority of the [voting] members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of
21 business.

22 (3) An affirmative vote of at least a majority of a quorum is needed for any official
23 action.

24 (F) *CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.*

25 (1) *IN GENERAL.*

26 THE COMMISSION MUST ADOPT A CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS TO GOVERN ITS
27 MEETINGS AND OPERATIONS.

28 (2) *CONSTITUTION.*

29 (I) THE COMMISSION MUST ADOPT A CONSTITUTION WITHIN 30 DAYS OF ELECTING
30 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Council Bill 24-0489

1 (II) THE COMMISSION MUST REVIEW, REVISE, AND RE-ADOPT THE CONSTITUTION
2 WITHIN 30 DAYS OF ELECTING A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AFTER THE
3 START OF EACH NEW MAYORAL TERM.

4 (3) *BYLAWS.*

5 (I) THE COMMISSION MUST ADOPT BYLAWS WITHIN 60 DAYS OF ELECTING THE
6 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

7 (II) THE COMMISSION MUST REVIEW, REVISE, AND RE-ADOPT THE BYLAWS WITHIN
8 60 DAYS OF ELECTING A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AFTER THE START OF
9 EACH NEW MAYORAL TERM.

10 (G) *STAFF.*

11 THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SUCCESS, OR ITS SUCCESSOR, SHALL:

12 (1) PROVIDE STAFF TO THE COMMISSION; AND

13 (2) PROVIDE THE PERSONNEL AND CAPITAL SUPPORT NECESSARY FOR THE
14 COMMISSION TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE ORDINANCE OF
15 ESTIMATES.

16 (H) [(e)] *Rules and regulations.*

17 Subject to Title 4 {"Administrative Procedure Act – Regulations"} of the City General
18 Provisions Article, the Commission may adopt rules and regulations to govern its
19 meetings and operations.

20 **§ 22-7. [Commission] POWERS AND duties.**

21 (A) *POWERS.*

22 IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER POWERS SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE COMMISSION MAY:

23 (1) ENGAGE, CONSULT, AND PARTNER WITH A CITY OFFICIAL AND ANY UNIT OF CITY
24 GOVERNMENT; AND

25 (2) ENGAGE, CONSULT, AND PARTNER WITH A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.

26 (B) *DUTIES.*

27 The Commission shall:

28 [(1) develop and maintain a 3-year plan of action that outlines specific areas for
29 Commission study and recommendations;]

30 [(2) review issues relating to programs and services for children and youth;]

Council Bill 24-0489

- 1 [(3) identify and recommend priorities among programs and services for children and
2 youth;]
- 3 [(4) create a forum for discussions with children, youth, and their families;]
- 4 [(5) advocate services and programs for children and youth;]
- 5 [(6) make recommendations for programs, policies, procedures, or legislation it
6 deems necessary to promote the well-being of children, youth, and their
7 families;]
- 8 [(7) work with the public and private sector in a collaborative effort to:]
- 9 [(i) bring forth the concerns of children and youth; and]
- 10 [(ii) evaluate and strengthen programming that will enhance the interpersonal
11 and social development of children and youth;]
- 12 [(8) develop a communications network to share information about public and
13 private services to children and youth;]
- 14 [(9) submit an annual report to the Mayor and the City Council; and]
- 15 [(10) perform any other duties that the Mayor requests.]
- 16 (1) CREATE AND DELIVER A YEAR-END ANNUAL REPORT ON COMMISSION ACTIVITIES
17 TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL;
- 18 (2) REVIEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH AND PROVIDE
19 FEEDBACK REGARDING EFFECTIVENESS TO THE RESPECTIVE RESOURCE
20 ADMINISTRATOR;
- 21 (3) HOST AND PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC FORUMS WITH AND ABOUT CHILDREN AND
22 YOUTH;
- 23 (4) ADVOCATE FOR RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH;
- 24 (5) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROGRAMS, POLICIES, PROCEDURES, OR
25 LEGISLATION DEEMED NECESSARY TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN,
26 YOUTH, AND THEIR FAMILIES;
- 27 (6) RAISE AWARENESS OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND THEIR
28 FAMILIES; AND
- 29 (7) REVIEW AND EVALUATE EXISTING AND PROPOSED POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND
30 LEGISLATION AS THEY RELATE TO THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND
31 THEIR FAMILIES.

Council Bill 24-0489

1 **§ 22-8. AGENCY COOPERATION.**

2 ALL CITY OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES SHALL COOPERATE WITH THE COMMISSION AND EXTEND
3 THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES THAT THE COMMISSION REQUIRES TO THE EXTENT THAT THE
4 OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES ARE ABLE TO DO SO GIVEN PERSONNEL AND BUDGETS AS PROVIDED
5 IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES.

6 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day
7 after the date it is enacted.