

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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BALTIMORE, MD 21202

January 10, 2020

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 19-0441 – Charter Amendment – Charter Review Commission

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0441 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill requires a Charter Review Commission to be appointed at least once every 10 years to review and make recommendations for necessary deletions, additions, or revisions to the City Charter. The bill also provides for the term of the Commission, sets forth the manner of the Commission's appointment; provides for the Commission's duties; and requires that the Commission be dissolved on the completion of its duties. Finally, it provides for submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

The substance of the bill presents no legal impediments.

Under Article XI-A, Section 5 of the Maryland Constitution, a resolution of the Mayor and City Council, such as this City Council Bill, is an appropriate method of initiating an amendment to the Baltimore City Charter. The Law Department, therefore, approves the resolution for form and legal sufficiency as drafted.

Sincerely,

Victor K. Tervala
Chief Solicitor

cc: Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor
Matt Stegman, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Caylin Young, President's Legislative Director
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor