

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 20-0492  
(Resolution)  
(Charter Amendment)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Henry  
Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2020  
Assigned to: Equity and Structure Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Board of Estimates, Planning Commission

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning

2 **Charter Amendment – City Council – Reduction in Size**

3 FOR the purpose of reducing the size of the City Council; providing for certain members to be  
4 elected at large; requiring that the President of the City Council, the Council Vice-President,  
5 and the Council’s representative to the Planning Commission be at-large members of the  
6 Council; clarifying, correcting, and conforming certain language; and submitting this  
7 amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing to amend

9 Article III - City Council  
10 Section(s) 1(b), 2(b) and (c), 3(a), 4, and 10(b)  
11 Baltimore City Charter  
12 (1996 Edition)

13 BY proposing to add

14 Article III - City Council  
15 Section(s) 2(d)  
16 Baltimore City Charter  
17 (1996 Edition)

18 BY proposing to amend

19 Article VII - Executive Departments  
20 Section(s) 71(a)  
21 Baltimore City Charter  
22 (1996 Edition)

23 **SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the**  
24 **City Charter is proposed to be amended to read as follows:**

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

**Council Bill 20-0492**

**Baltimore City Charter**

**Article III. City Council**

**§ 1. Legislative Department; qualification and salary of members.**

(b) *Qualifications.*

(1) [Members] EACH MEMBER of the City Council[, except the President whose qualifications are provided for in Section 3, shall] MUST be [citizens] A CITIZEN of the United States, at least 18 years old, [and] A registered [voters] VOTER of Baltimore City, AND A RESIDENT OF THE CITY FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE ELECTION AND DURING THE MEMBER’S TERM OF OFFICE.

(2) [They] EACH MEMBER ELECTED FROM A DISTRICT MUST also [shall] be [residents] A RESIDENT of the [districts the members have been chosen to represent] DISTRICT FROM WHICH THE MEMBER IS ELECTED for at least 1 year [next] IMMEDIATELY preceding [their] THE election, except as provided in Section 7(e), and during [their] THE MEMBER’S term of office, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 7(D).

**§ 2. Members.**

(b) *Number.*

The Council [shall consist] CONSISTS of [fourteen] 9 members[, in addition to the President,] TO BE ELECTED AS FOLLOWS:

(1) [There shall be fourteen districts with one] 1 member [elected] from each [district] OF 6 DISTRICTS; AND

(2) 3 MEMBERS FROM THE CITY AT LARGE.

(c) *Districts ELECTIONS.*

[The election of members shall be held by council districts, and no] NO person is entitled to vote for any DISTRICT member of the City Council [other than member for the] UNLESS THE PERSON IS A REGISTERED VOTER OF THAT district [in which the voter is registered].

**§ 3. President.**

(a) *Election, [qualifications,] duties, etc.*

[At the same time that they elect the members, the voters shall elect from Baltimore City at large, a person to be the President of the City Council, who shall possess the qualifications required for the Mayor of the City. It shall be the President’s duty to preside over the City Council, vote on all questions and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law. The salary of the President shall be set in the Ordinance of Estimates.]

**Council Bill 20-0492**

1 AT ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION IN EACH CALENDAR YEAR, THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL, BY A  
2 MAJORITY VOTE OF ITS MEMBERS, APPOINT FROM THE AT-LARGE MEMBERS A PRESIDENT  
3 WHO SHALL PRESIDE AT ALL MEETINGS, VOTE ON ALL QUESTIONS, AND PERFORM OTHER  
4 DUTIES AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW.

5 **§ 4. Vacancy in presidency.**

6 If [it becomes necessary for] the President of the City Council IS ELECTED UNDER ARTICLE  
7 IV, § 2(A) OF THIS CHARTER to fill the unexpired term of the Mayor, or in case of the death,  
8 resignation, removal, or other disqualification of the President, the City Council, by a  
9 majority vote of its members, shall elect A COUNCILMEMBER TO SERVE as a new president for  
10 the unexpired term. [The person so elected as President may, but need not, be, at the time of  
11 election, a member of the City Council.]

12 **§ 10. Procedures; Council officers.**

13 (b) *Vice-President – In general.*

14 (1) [The City Council, by] BY a majority vote of its members, THE CITY COUNCIL shall  
15 appoint A COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT from [its] THE AT-LARGE members OF THE  
16 COUNCIL [a Vice-President,].

17 (2) [who in] IN the absence, sickness, or TEMPORARY disqualification of the President,  
18 THE VICE-PRESIDENT shall:

19 (I) preside at all [its] meetings OF THE COUNCIL[.]; AND

20 (II) [The Vice-President also shall be] SERVE AS an acting member of the Board of  
21 Estimates [in the absence, sickness or temporary disqualification of the  
22 President].

23 (3) NO MEMBER MAY SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL OR AS COUNCIL VICE-  
24 PRESIDENT AND SIMULTANEOUSLY AS THE COUNCIL’S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE  
25 PLANNING COMMISSION.

26 **Article VII. Executive Departments**

27 ***Department of Planning***

28 **§ 71. Department of Planning: Commission – Composition, appointment, terms.**

29 (a) *In general.*

30 (1) The Planning Commission [shall consist] CONSISTS of THE FOLLOWING [nine] 9  
31 members[.,]:

32 (I) [one of whom shall be] the Director of Public Works, ex officio[.,];

33 (II) [one of whom shall be] the Mayor of [the] BALTIMORE City, ex officio[.,];  
34 [and]

**Council Bill 20-0492**

1 (III) [one of whom shall be a] AN AT-LARGE member of the City Council [ex  
2 officio], OTHER THAN THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT OR VICE-PRESIDENT, [who  
3 shall be] TO BE elected by [that body,] THE CITY COUNCIL; and

4 (IV) [six of whom shall be] 6 MEMBERS appointed[, must be] BY THE MAYOR AND  
5 confirmed[, and shall serve, pursuant to] BY THE CITY COUNCIL UNDER Article  
6 IV, Section 6.

7 (2) THE 6 APPOINTED MEMBERS SERVE FOR A TERM OF 4 YEARS. The terms of [three] 3  
8 appointed members [shall] expire on the last day of the year in which the term of the  
9 Mayor begins [pursuant to Article IV, Section 1], and the [four year] terms of [three]  
10 THE OTHER 3 appointed members [shall] expire [two] 2 years [thereafter] LATER.

11 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this proposed amendment to the City  
12 Charter be submitted to the legal and qualified voters of Baltimore City, for adoption or rejection,  
13 in accordance with Article XI-A, § 5 of the Maryland Constitution, in the form specified by the  
14 City Solicitor.