

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Council Bill 19-0441**  
**(Charter Amendment)**

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Introduced by: President Scott, Councilmembers Dorsey, Pinkett, Bullock, Henry, Burnett,  
Cohen, McCray, Stokes, Reisinger, Costello, Schleifer, Clarke, Sneed

Introduced and read first time: September 9, 2019

Assigned to: Equity and Structure Committee

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Council action: Adopted

Read second time: April 27, 2020

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**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING**

**Charter Amendment – Charter Review Commission**

FOR the purpose of requiring a Charter Review Commission be appointed at least once every 10 years to review the City Charter and make recommendations for necessary deletions, additions, or revisions; providing for the term of the Commission; setting forth the manner of the Commission’s appointment; providing for the Commission’s duties; requiring that the Commission be dissolved on the completion of its duties; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

BY proposing to add

Article XI - Charter Review Commission  
Section(s) 1 to 6  
Baltimore City Charter  
(1996 Edition)

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

**Baltimore City Charter**

**Article XI. CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION**

**§ 1. COMMISSION ESTABLISHED.**

~~A CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE AT LEAST EVERY 10 YEARS FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

(A) IN GENERAL.

A CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION SHALL BE ESTABLISHED DECENNIALLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE BY RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL NO LATER THAN MAY 1 IN THE FIRST ODD-NUMBERED YEAR OF EACH DECADE.

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

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1 (B) INTERIM COMMISSIONS.

2 NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, A CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION  
3 MAY BE ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE BY RESOLUTION OF THE  
4 MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL NO LATER THAN MAY 1 IN ANY YEAR THAT PRECEDES A  
5 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION.

6 (C) INITIAL COMMISSION.

7 THE FIRST COMMISSION UNDER THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED NO LATER THAN  
8 MAY 1, 2021.”.

9 **§ 2. TERM OF COMMISSION.**

10 ~~A CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION SHALL BE APPOINTED NO LATER THAN MAY 1 IN A YEAR~~  
11 ~~PRECEDING A CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION AND COMPLETE ITS DUTIES AND BE DISSOLVED NO~~  
12 ~~LATER THAN MAY 31 IN THE YEAR FOLLOWING ITS APPOINTMENT.~~

13 (A) IN GENERAL.

14 A CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE  
15 SHALL COMPLETE ITS DUTIES AND SUBMIT ITS WORK TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
16 NO LATER THAN MAY 31 IN THE YEAR FOLLOWING ITS ESTABLISHMENT.

17 (B) DISSOLUTION.

18 ON COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF ITS WORK TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL, THE  
19 COMMISSION SHALL BE DEEMED DISSOLVED.

20 **§ 3. COMPOSITION.**

21 (A) IN GENERAL.

22 ~~THE COMMISSION SHALL BE COMPOSED OF 9~~ AS SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION OF REGISTERED  
23 VOTERS OF THE CITY APPOINTED WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL AFFILIATION.

24 (B) MANNER OF APPOINTMENT.

25 THE MAYOR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL  
26 EACH APPOINT 3 MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION. EACH MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
27 SHALL APPOINT 1 MEMBER TO THE COMMISSION.

28 (C) INELIGIBILITY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS.

29 ~~EXCEPT FOR A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY, NO~~ NO PERSON HOLDING ELECTING ELECTIVE  
30 OFFICE MAY BE APPOINTED TO THE COMMISSION.

31 (D) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.

32 THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A CHAIR AND A VICE CHAIR FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

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1 (E) *ADVISORY COMMITTEES; STAFF.*

2 (1) ADVICE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION BY:

3 (I) THE CITY SOLICITOR OR THE SOLICITOR'S DESIGNEE;

4 (II) THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

5 (III) THE GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE CITY COUNCIL;

6 (IV) THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES OR THE DIRECTOR'S  
7 DESIGNEE; AND

8 (V) THE DEPUTY COMPTROLLER OR THE DEPUTY COMPTROLLER'S DESIGNEE.

9 (2) AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSION, ADVISORY COMMITTEES MAY BE APPOINTED  
10 TO ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN ITS DUTIES.

11 **§ 4. DUTIES.**

12 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

13 THE COMMISSION SHALL REVIEW THE CHARTER, UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY  
14 OF ITS CONTENTS, AND MAKE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE NECESSITY  
15 FOR DELETING, ADDING, OR AMENDING ITS PROVISIONS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE  
16 EFFICIENCY AND OPERATIONS OF CITY GOVERNMENT.

17 (B) *PUBLIC HEARING AND TESTIMONY.*

18 PRIOR TO DELIVERING ITS REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL, THE  
19 COMMISSION SHALL HOLD AT LEAST 1 PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC TESTIMONY  
20 ABOUT THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

21 **§ 5. REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.**

22 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

23 THE COMMISSION SHALL DELIVER A WRITTEN REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND  
24 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL.

25 (B) *PUBLIC HEARING.*

26 THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AT WHICH THE COMMISSION SHALL  
27 PRESENT ITS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

28 **§ 6. DISSOLUTION.**

29 ON COMPLETING THE ACTIVITIES REQUIRED IN §5 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE COMMISSION SHALL  
30 BE DEEMED DISSOLVED AND ITS WORK COMPLETED.

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

Certified as duly passed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Baltimore City