

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 20-0550
(Resolution)
(Charter Amendment)**

Introduced by: The Council President
At the request of: The Administration (Mayor's Office)
Introduced and read first time: July 6, 2020
Assigned to: Equity and Structure Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Mayor's Office, Department of Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning

2 **Charter Amendment – City Council Modernization and Re-Structuring Act**

3 FOR the purpose of reducing the size of the City Council; requiring that the City Council Vice-
4 President be elected by the voters of Baltimore City; specifying that in the case of a vacancy
5 in the position of City Council President, the Vice-President shall become President;
6 conforming and clarifying related provisions; and submitting this amendment to the qualified
7 voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing to amend
9 Article III - City Council
10 Section(s) 1, 2, 4, 10
11 Baltimore City Charter
12 (1996 Edition)

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

Baltimore City Charter

Article III. City Council

18 **§ 1. Legislative Department; Qualification and salary of members.**

19 (a) *Legislative Department.*

20 The Legislative Department of the City shall be the City Council, which shall consist of a
21 single chamber.

22 (b) *Qualifications.*

23 Members of the City Council, except the President whose qualifications are provided for
24 in Section 3 AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT WHOSE QUALIFICATIONS ARE PROVIDED FOR IN
25 SECTION 10, shall be citizens of the United States, at least 18 years old, and registered

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

Council Bill 20-0550

1 voters of Baltimore City. They also shall be residents of the districts the members have
2 been chosen to represent for at least 1 year next preceding their election, except as
3 provided in Section 7(e), and during their term of office.

4 (c) *Salaries.*

5 The salary of each member shall be set as provided in Article VII, §§ 117 through 125 of
6 this Charter.

7 § 2. Members.

8 (a) *Election and term.*

9 (1) The voters shall elect the members of the City Council on the Tuesday next after the
10 first Monday in November 2016, and on the same day and month in every succeeding
11 fourth year.

12 (2) Their term of office shall commence on the Thursday next after the first Monday in
13 December succeeding their election and shall continue for 4 years.

14 (b) *Number.*

15 The Council shall consist of [fourteen] 5 members in addition to the President AND VICE-
16 PRESIDENT. There shall be [fourteen] 5 districts with one member elected from each
17 district.

18 (c) *Districts.*

19 The election of members shall be held by council districts, and no person is entitled to
20 vote for any member of the City Council other than member for the district in which the
21 voter is registered.

22 § 4. Vacancy in presidency.

23 If it becomes necessary for the President of the City Council to fill the unexpired term of the
24 Mayor, or in case of the death, resignation, removal, or other disqualification of the President,
25 the [City Council, by a majority vote of its members, shall elect as a new president for the
26 unexpired term. The person so elected as President may, but need not, be, at the time of
27 election, a member of the City Council] VICE-PRESIDENT SHALL BECOME THE NEW
28 PRESIDENT FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM.

29 § 10. Procedures; Council officers.

30 (a) *Attendance of members.*

31 The City Council may compel the attendance of absent members in [such] A manner and
32 under [such] ANY penalties [as it may provide] PROVIDED by ordinance.

Council Bill 20-0550

1 (b) *Vice-President — in general.*

2 [The City Council, by a majority vote of its members, shall appoint from its members a]
3 THE VOTERS SHALL ELECT FROM BALTIMORE CITY AT LARGE A PERSON TO BE THE
4 Vice-President, who in the absence, sickness, or TEMPORARY disqualification of the
5 President shall preside at all its meetings. The Vice-President also shall be an acting
6 member of the Board of Estimates in the absence, sickness, or temporary disqualification
7 of the President.

8 (c) *VICE-PRESIDENT — QUALIFICATIONS.*

9 THE VICE-PRESIDENT SHALL POSSESS THE QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR MAYOR OF THE
10 CITY.

11 (D) [(c)] *Vice-President — as acting Mayor.*

12 In case of, and during, necessary absence, sickness or the temporary disqualification of
13 both the Mayor and the President of the City Council, the Vice-President shall be acting
14 Mayor.

15 (E) [(d)] *Judge of member qualifications; Discipline.*

16 The City Council shall be judge of the election and qualifications of its members, subject
17 to appeal by petition of the party aggrieved as provided by law. With the concurrence of
18 three-fourths of its members, the City Council may expel any member for disorderly
19 behavior or misconduct in office, but not a second time for the same offense.

20 (F) [(e)] *Rules of procedure; Officers.*

21 The City Council shall adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with the Charter, appoint
22 its own officers, regulate their respective compensation, not to exceed in the aggregate the
23 amount appropriated therefor in the Ordinance of Estimates, and remove them at
24 pleasure.

25 (G) [(f)] *Journal of proceedings; Public deliberations.*

26 The City Council shall keep a journal of its proceedings and enter yeas and nays on any
27 question, resolution or ordinance at the request of any member, and the deliberations of
28 the City Council shall be public.

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