



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Labor

City Council Resolution 18-0110

Investigative Hearing – Residency Requirements for City Officials

Sponsor: *Councilmember Sneed **

Introduced: *October 15, 2018*

Purpose:

For the purpose of calling for a hearing to measure the compliance of City Officials with residency and voting registration requirements, and to determine how to move forward so that 100% compliance is reached.

Effective: There is no enactment date.

Agency Reports

City Solicitor	Favorable
Department of Human Resouces	Favorable

Analysis

Background

In April of 2018, Bill 17-0170: City Officials – Residency Requirements was enacted into law under Article 1 – Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies: Section 7 – 10 Baltimore City Code (Edition 2000). This legislation establishes residency requirements for certain agency heads and at-will supervisory employees. The bill applies to new hires being appointed to positions, and internal candidates promoted to positions that fall under the definition of “*Official*” as stated in the legislation. There is a six-month window for both groups of candidates to become Baltimore City residents and register as voters.

Article 1: Section 7 – 10: Residency Requirements for City Officials

(2) Agency

“Agency” means any department, and bureau or division within a department, and any board, commission, authority, council, committee, office, or other unit of City government.

(3) Official

“Official” means:

- (i) the head of an agency who reports directly to the Mayor; and
- (ii) any at-will supervisory employee who reports directly to the Mayor or to the head of an agency.

After this legislation was enacted the Department of Human Resources added the below listed language to all positions posted on the city’s employment website that fall under this law:

The Baltimore City Ordinance 18-111, Section 1 (B) requires that all agency heads who report directly to the Mayor and any At-Will supervisory employees who report directly to the Mayor or to the Head of an Agency must be a resident and registered voter of the City of Baltimore throughout their term of office. **Section (B) (1)** allows candidate(s) prior to appointment, the opportunity to sign a Declaration of Intent to become a city resident and registered voter within (6) months of the effective date of their appointment.

An issue that has been identified in some agencies is the manipulation of agency organizational charts and reporting structure in an attempt to elude the language in the law as it is written. Those agencies are placing bureau heads who don’t want to move into the city under the Chief of Staff or some other created position and having them report to that individual. Then the Chief of Staff or the equivalent is placed under the agency head which is a direct violation of the law and its intent.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Agency Reports

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Analysis Date: February 5, 2019

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