#### CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG, Mayor



#### OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

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#### **BILL SYNOPSIS**

Committee: Equity and Structure
Bill 20-0550

## **Charter Amendment - City Council Modernization and Re-Structuring Act**

Sponsor: The Council President

Introduced: July 6, 2020

#### **Purpose:**

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

Effective: Upon the approval of the legal and qualified voters of Baltimore City.

### **Agency Reports**

Department of Law	Comments
Department of Finance	Not Favorable

# **Analysis**

By proposing to amend

Article III - City Council Section(s) 1, 2, 4, 10; Baltimore City Charter (1996 Edition)

### **Background**

Since 1922, the Baltimore City Council had consisted of 18 council members, with three members elected from each of the six districts. In November 2002, voters of Baltimore City approved a Charter Amendment to create a new structure for the Baltimore City Council. The restructured Council consist of 14 council members, each elected from a single-member district.

Current Language	Proposed Language – 20-0550
• The Council shall consist of 14 members in addition to the President.	• The Council Vice President shall be elected from Baltimore City at Large.
There shall be 14 districts with one member elected from each district.	• The Council shall consist of 5 members. There shall be 5 districts with one member elected from each district.
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.	

### **Local Jurisdiction Comparison Chart**

	<b>Baltimore City</b>	Baltimore	Anne Arundel	<b>Prince Georges</b>
		County	County	County
Council	1 Council President	1 Council Chair	1 Council Chair	2 At-Large Seats
Structure				
	14 Single member	7 Single member	1 Council Vice Chair	9 Council Districts
	Districts	Districts		
			7 Council Districts	
Jurisdiction	Approx. 602,495	Approx. 828,431	Approx. 576,031	Approx. 909,308
Population	(2018)	(2018)	(2018)	(2018)

# **National Comparison Chart**

	<b>Baltimore City</b>	Los Angeles,	Atlanta, Georgia	Philadelphia,
		California		Pennsylvania
Council Structure	1 Council President	1 Council President	1 Council President	The Council President is elected by the members of the council.
	14 Single member Districts	1 President Pro Tempore (both selected from the	12 Single member Districts	10 Single member Districts
		existing body)  15 Single member Districts	3 At-Large members	7 At-Large Council members
Jurisdiction Population	Approx. 602,495 (2018)	Approx. 3,990,456 (2018)	Approx. 1,345,047 (2018)	Approx. 1,584,138 (2018)

## **Additional Information**

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Charter, Agency Reports

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Equity and Structure 20-0550