

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND  
Legislative Session 2015, Legislative Day No. 3

Bill No. 12-15

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Councilmembers Marks, Kach, Crandell, Quirk, Almond & Bevins

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By the County Council, February 2, 2015

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A BILL  
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

County Charter - Charter Review Commission

FOR the purpose of establishing a Baltimore County Charter Review Commission to review the provisions of the Charter during certain specified periods and to make recommendations concerning proposed Charter amendments where necessary and appropriate.

BY adding

Section 1203

Article XII. Manner of Terminating This Charter and Making Amendments Thereto  
Baltimore County Charter

1           SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE  
2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that under the authority granted to it by Section 1202 of the Baltimore  
3 County Charter, Section 1203 of Article XII. Manner of Terminating This Charter and Making  
4 Amendments Thereto, of the Baltimore County Charter, be and it is hereby proposed to be added  
5 to read as follows:

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EXPLANATION:           CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
                              [Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.  
                              ~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.  
                              Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

1 Article XII. Manner of Terminating this Charter and Making Amendments Thereto

2 § 1203. CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION.

3 (A) A DECENNIAL CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION SHALL BE APPOINTED  
4 BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE BY MARCH 1 IN THE  
5 SEVENTH YEAR OF EACH DECADE. THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION SHALL  
6 BE ESTABLISHED, BY RESOLUTION, AND BE COMPOSED OF ELEVEN MEMBERS  
7 WHO ~~SHALL~~ MUST BE RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY, WITH ONE MEMBER  
8 APPOINTED BY EACH COUNCIL MEMBER AND ~~THREE~~ TWO APPOINTED BY THE  
9 COUNTY EXECUTIVE. A PERSON WHO HOLDS ELECTIVE OFFICE IS NOT ELIGIBLE  
10 FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMISSION. THE COUNTY ATTORNEY SHALL BE A  
11 ~~MEMBER AND THE CHAIRPERSON~~ AN EX OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION.  
12 THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL APPOINT AN ADDITIONAL  
13 MEMBER TO SERVE AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION.

14 (B) THE COMMISSION SHALL REVIEW THE CHARTER AND UNDERTAKE A  
15 COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF ITS CONTENTS, AND MAKE FINDINGS AND  
16 RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE NECESSITY FOR DELETING, ADDING, OR  
17 AMENDING ITS PROVISIONS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY AND  
18 OPERATIONS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT. THE COMMISSION SHALL HOLD AT  
19 LEAST ONE PUBLIC HEARING PRIOR TO ADOPTING ITS FINDINGS AND  
20 RECOMMENDATIONS.

21 (C) THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT ITS FINDINGS AND  
22 RECOMMENDATIONS IN A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND  
23 COUNTY EXECUTIVE BY OCTOBER 15 OF THE YEAR IN WHICH THE COMMISSION

1 IS APPOINTED, INCLUDING DRAFTS OF ANY RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO THE  
2 CHARTER.

3 (D) THE COUNTY ATTORNEY AND THE SECRETARY TO THE COUNTY  
4 COUNCIL, OR THEIR DESIGNEES, SHALL PROVIDE TO THE COMMISSION ADVICE  
5 AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that pursuant to Section 1202 of the  
7 Baltimore County Charter, the question whether or not the Charter is to be amended as proposed  
8 by this Act shall be submitted to the voters of Baltimore County at the general election on  
9 November 8, 2016, and that this Act shall be published in at least two newspapers of general  
10 circulation in the County for five successive weeks prior to the election.

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that upon ratification by the voters of  
12 Baltimore County, this Act shall become effective from and after the thirtieth day following said  
13 election.