

# County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2018 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 1

## RESOLUTION NO. 10 - 2018

Introduced by: The Chairperson

A RESOLUTION amending the Howard County Council Rules of Procedure specifying the start time for certain meetings; eliminating the 5 minute time limit for representatives of a group; allowing a Resolution or Bill to be withdrawn at any time before a vote on its final passage; specifying that members may participate in a legislative session by teleconference only for an emergency legislative session; requiring a certain sign-up system for those wanting to testify; providing that individuals need not give a street address aloud when testifying; and authorizing the Administrator to add to the first page of a bill the dates that the bill may fail due to inaction as provided by Charter Section 209(h).

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Introduced and read first time on \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted \_\_\_\_, Adopted with amendments \_\_\_\_, Failed \_\_\_\_, Withdrawn \_\_\_\_ by the County Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

Certified by \_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.



1 held at such locations as the Chairperson may provide. TO PARTICIPATE IN A LEGISLATIVE  
2 SESSION, A MEMBER MUST BE PRESENT IN PERSON EXCEPT THAT A MEMBER MAY PARTICIPATE IN AN  
3 EMERGENCY LEGISLATIVE SESSION BY TELEPHONE OR OTHER TELECONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY.  
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5 **Rule 1.006 - Introduction of bills, resolutions and petitions.**

6 (d) Form of Bills. Each bill shall have printed on the first page thereof the form as provided in  
7 appendix A of these Rules. The Administrator shall attach to each bill following its enactment a  
8 page summarizing its final status, as provided in appendix B of these rules; for each resolution, a  
9 page shall be attached as provided in appendix C; for each petition a page shall be attached as  
10 provided in appendix D.

11 (1) Title. The title shall be succinct to the reference of the general subject of the bill.

12 (2) Enacting clause. The enacting clause shall read "Be it enacted by the County  
13 Council of Howard County, Maryland".

14 (3) Numbering of sections. Section of a bill shall be numbered in Arabic numerals.

15 (4) Numbering of lines. The lines of the text of a bill shall be consecutively numbered  
16 commencing at the top line of each page.

17 THE ADMINISTRATOR MAY ADD TO THE FIRST PAGE OF A BILL THE DATE OR DATES WHEN  
18 THE BILL MAY FAIL DUE TO INACTION AS PROVIDED BY CHARTER SECTION 209(H).  
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20 **Rule 1.007 - Consideration of bills.**

21 (a) *Reading of Bills.* Every bill, before it shall pass the Council, shall be read on three  
22 different occasions. Any bill may be rejected upon introduction by a vote of two-thirds of the  
23 members of the Council. Any bill may be withdrawn from consideration before [[final reading]]  
24 A VOTE ON ITS FINAL PASSAGE by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Council. On the first  
25 reading, a bill shall be read by number and title only when introduced or when read as a  
26 substantively amended bill following readvertisement and re-hearing as provided by these Rules.  
27 The public hearing shall be the second reading. On final reading, a bill shall be read by number  
28 and title only, except that any member may request on final reading that a bill be read once,  
29 section by section for amendment before vote on final passage, and, if amended, any member

1 may request that a bill be read as amended before vote on final passage. If amended as to  
2 substance, the bill shall not be passed until the title is rewritten to reflect the substance of  
3 substantive amendments, a hearing is set on the substantive amendments, and proceedings are  
4 conducted as in the case of newly introduced bills. Amendments may be determined to be  
5 substantive by a majority vote of the Council upon motion of any member.

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7 Rule 1.008 - Consideration of resolutions.

8 There shall be a first reading and a final reading of each resolution; provided, however, that any  
9 resolution may be rejected upon introduction by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the  
10 Council, and provided further that any resolution may be withdrawn from consideration before  
11 [[final reading]] A VOTE ON ITS FINAL PASSAGE by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the  
12 Council. A resolution shall be read by number and title. A public hearing may be held on  
13 resolutions at the direction of the Chairperson or by motion approved by a majority of the  
14 Council. Vote on final passage shall be on roll call by the yeas and nays, and a majority of the  
15 votes of the members shall be necessary to pass the resolution. If no member objects, the Council  
16 may enact more than one resolution by a single combined roll call vote. An enrolled copy shall  
17 be prepared after final passage and certified a true copy by the Administrator. On enrolling, the  
18 Administrator shall have authority to correct obvious errors in section references and numbers,  
19 capitalization, spelling, grammar, headings and similar matters.

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21 Rule 1.010 - Motions.

22 (b) *Motions on Questions under Debate.* When a question is under debate, no motion shall be  
23 received except a motion:

24 (1) To adjourn or to fix the time for adjournment;

25 (2) To lay on the table;

26 (3) To close debate (to move the question);

27 (4) To postpone to a certain time;

28 (5) To amend or to amend an amendment;

29 (6) To determine the substantive nature of an amendment; [or]

1 (7) To postpone indefinitely[.] ; OR

2 (8) TO WITHDRAW.

3 None of these motions shall be debatable except a motion to amend or to amend an  
4 amendment. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THESE RULES, A [A] majority of members  
5 present shall be required for an adoption of any motion.

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8 Rule 1.012 - Conduct of public hearings.

9 (b) Preliminary Action.

10 (1) Upon convening the hearing, the [[presiding officer]] CHAIRPERSON shall give a brief  
11 explanation of the purpose of the hearing and shall cause to be presented any information or data,  
12 including reading of the legislation by the Administrator and explanation of the legislation by the  
13 Councilmember or a representative of the administration, which is required before the public  
14 discussion begins. [[In the case of a hearing during which a large number of people wish to  
15 testify, the Chairperson may, prior to the presentation of testimony by the first person, establish a  
16 maximum time limit of three minutes for oral testimony by each person. The Chairperson may  
17 also establish a maximum time limit of five minutes for oral testimony by a spokesperson  
18 testifying for an organization. The Chairperson may require advance sign-up sheets to expedite  
19 testimony, and in such cases all those who are signed to speak shall be heard before any people  
20 testifying spontaneously are recognized. When advance signup sheets are necessary, people  
21 wishing to testify shall be permitted to sign up beginning one-half hour prior to the scheduled  
22 starting time for the public hearing.]]

23 (2) THE TIME LIMIT FOR ORAL TESTIMONY AT THE HEARING IS 3 MINUTES PER PERSON  
24 EXCEPT THAT WHENEVER MULTIPLE ITEMS OF LEGISLATION ARE GROUPED TOGETHER FOR  
25 PURPOSES OF HEARING TESTIMONY, THE CHAIRPERSON MAY EXTEND THE LIMIT FOR A PERSON  
26 TESTIFYING ONCE ABOUT ALL OF THE ITEMS IN THE GROUP.

27 (3) ANY INDIVIDUAL WISHING TO TESTIFY SHALL SIGN UP THROUGH A SYSTEM PROVIDED  
28 BY THE ADMINISTRATOR. THE SYSTEM SHALL INCLUDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP IN ADVANCE  
29 OF THE HEARING AND AN ON-SITE SIGN UP OPTION THAT SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR AT LEAST 30

1 MINUTES BEFORE THE SCHEDULED TIME OF THE HEARING. THE SYSTEM SHALL REQUIRE THAT EACH  
2 PERSON PROVIDE:

3 (I) NAME AND CITY OR TOWN OF RESIDENCE; AND

4 (II) TELEPHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS, OR MAILING ADDRESS.

5 (c) Public Participation. Any person WHO HAS SIGNED UP UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(3) OF THIS  
6 RULE MAY [[desiring to]] speak on the matters or issues under consideration. [[shall first address  
7 the Chair and]] THE PERSON shall not proceed until recognized by the [[Chair]] CHAIRPERSON.  
8 Upon initial recognition by the [[Chair]] CHAIRPERSON, the person shall give the following  
9 information before speaking to the issue:

10 (1) Name.

11 (2) Home [[address]] CITY OR TOWN.

12 (3) Persons or organization represented or that he OR SHE is speaking as a private  
13 citizen.

14 (4) Whether he OR SHE is speaking for or against the subject matter under  
15 consideration.

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