

County Council Of Howard County, Maryland

2012 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 8

Resolution No. 103 - 2012

Introduced by: The Chair at the Request of the Charter Review Commission

A RESOLUTION proposing to amend Section 211 “The referendum” of the Howard County Charter by providing that the number of required signatures for a referendum be 5% of the qualified voters of the County calculated upon the whole number of votes cast in the County for Governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XIA of the Maryland Constitution.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2012.

By order _____
Stephen M. LeGendre, Administrator

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on _____, 2012.

By order _____
Stephen M. LeGendre, Administrator

This Resolution was read for the third time and was Adopted ____, Adopted with amendments ____, Failed ____, Withdrawn ____, by the County Council on _____, 2012.

By order _____
Stephen M. LeGendre, Administrator

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

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that
2 Section 211 “The referendum” subsection (a) “Scope of the referendum”, of Article II,
3 “The Legislative Branch”, of the Howard County Charter, is hereby amended to read as
4 follows:

5
6 **Section 211. The referendum.**

7
8 (a) *Scope of the referendum.* The people of Howard County reserve to
9 themselves the power known as "The Referendum," by petition to have submitted
10 to the registered voters of the County to approve or reject at the polls, any law or a
11 part of any law of the Council. The referendum petition against any such law shall
12 be sufficient if signed by five per centum of the [[registered voters of the County,
13 but in any case not less than 1,500 nor more than 5,000 signatures shall be
14 required]] QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE COUNTY CALCULATED UPON THE WHOLE
15 NUMBER OF VOTES CAST IN THE COUNTY FOR GOVERNOR AT THE LAST PRECEDING
16 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION. Such petition shall be filed with the Board of
17 Supervisors of Elections of Howard County within sixty days after the law is
18 enacted. If such a petition is filed as aforesaid, the law or part thereof to be
19 referred shall not take effect until thirty days after its approval by a majority of
20 the qualified voters of the County voting thereon at the next ensuing election held
21 for members of the House of Representatives of the United States; provided,
22 however, that if more than one-half but less than the full number of signatures
23 required to complete any referendum petition against such law be filed within
24 sixty days from the date it is enacted, the time for the law to take effect and the
25 time for filing the remainder of signatures to complete the petition shall be
26 extended for an additional thirty days. Any emergency measure shall remain in
27 force from the date it becomes law notwithstanding the filing of such petition, but
28 shall stand repealed thirty days after having been rejected by a majority of the
29 qualified voters voting thereon. No law making any appropriation for current
30 expenses shall be subject to rejection or repeal under this section.

1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** *by the County Council of Howard*
2 *County, Maryland, that at the next general election to be held in Maryland, the proposed*
3 *amendment to the Howard County Charter shall be submitted to the voters of Howard*
4 *County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with the provisions of the Article X*
5 *of the Howard County Charter and Article XIA of the Maryland Constitution, and if*
6 *adopted by the majority of the voters, shall stand adopted from and after the 30th day*
7 *following the general election;*

8

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** *by the County Council of Howard*
10 *County, Maryland, that this Resolution, having been approved by two-thirds of the*
11 *members of the Howard County Council, stands adopted this _____ day of*
12 _____, 2012 in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter.