County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2019 Legislative Session

Legislative day #

RESOLUTION NO. /00 2019

Introduced by: Christiana Mercer Rigby

A RESOLUTION amending the Howard County Council Rules of Procedure to alter the time to sign up to testify at a public hearing.

Introduced and read first time on June 3, 2019.
By order Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council
Read for a second time and a public hearing held on 2007, 2019.
By order
This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted, Adopted with amendments_, Failed_, Withdrawn by the County Council on, 2019.
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; <u>Underlining</u> indicates material added by amendment.

1	WHEREAS, Article II, Section 208(f) of the Howard County Charter provides that the			
2	Council shall adopt and publish such Rules of Procedure as it determines are desirable for its			
3	efficient operation; and			
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5	WHEREAS, the Council has determined that the Rules of Procedure must be amended to			
6	ensure that the Council operates efficiently and effectively.			
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9	Maryland this day of, 2019 that the Rules of Procedure of the Howard			
10	County Council, set forth in Appendix A of the Howard County Code, are amended as follows:			
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12	Appendix A.			
13				
14	Rules of Procedure for the County Council			
15	of Howard County, Maryland			
16	Rule 1.012 - Conduct of public hearings.			
17	(a) <i>General</i> . The rules in this section apply to public hearings held upon pending legislation, the budget,			
18	and other matters subject to public hearings. Normally these hearings will be held in conjunction with			
19	regularly scheduled meetings, but they may be scheduled at other times by the Chairperson in			
20	accordance with these rules.			
21	(b) Preliminary Action.			
22	(1) Upon convening the hearing, the Chairperson shall give a brief explanation of the purpose of the			
23	hearing and shall cause to be presented any information or data, including reading of the			
24	legislation by the Administrator and explanation of the legislation by the Councilmember or a			
25	representative of the administration, which is required before the public discussion begins.			
26 27	(2) (i) Subject to subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) of this paragraph, the time limit for oral testimony at the hearing is:			
28 29	a. Three minutes per person, whether speaking as an individual or on behalf of an entity not included in subparagraph c below;			

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1 2	b. Three minutes for each representative of an entity with multiple representatives speaking on behalf of the entity; or
3	c. Five minutes for a single representative of a nonprofit organization or government
4	board, commission, or task force regardless of the number of members or supporters
5	who may testify as individuals.
6	(ii) Whenever multiple items of legislation are grouped together for purposes of hearing
7	testimony, the chairperson may extend the limits for a person testifying once about all the
8	items in the group.
9	(iii) To qualify as a representative of a nonprofit organization, or government board,
10	commission, or task force, the representative shall submit written certification from the entity
11	or a sworn affidavit that:
12	a. Demonstrates that the representative is authorized to offer testimony and take a position
13	to support, oppose, or amend the legislation on behalf of the entity; and
14	b. Indicates the number of members in the entity.
15	(iv) A certification or affidavit required by this subsection (b)(2) of this Rule shall be submitted
16	to the Administrator:
17	a. Electronically in advance of the hearing; or
18	b. In person at the hearing before giving testimony.
19	(3) Any individual wishing to testify shall sign up through a system provided by the Administrator.
20	The system shall include an opportunity to sign up in advance of the hearing and an on-site sign
21	up option that shall be available for the period that begins at least 30 minutes before the scheduled
22	time of the hearing. [[and that ends when testimony]] THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP TO TESTIFY
23	ends AT THE TIME THE HEARING IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN on the hearing's first day. The system
24	shall require that each person provide:
25	(i) Name and city or town of residence; and
26	(ii) Telephone number, email address, or mailing address.
27	(c) Public Participation. Any person desiring to speak on the matters or issues under consideration shall
28	sign up under subsection (b)(3) of this Rule and shall proceed when recognized by the Chairperson.

1		Upon initial recognition by the Chairperson, the person shall give the following information before		
2		speaking to the issue:		
3		(1)	Name.	
4		(2)	Home city or town.	
5		(3)	Persons or organization represented or that he or she is speaking as a private citizen.	
6		(4)	Whether he or she is speaking for or against the subject matter under consideration.	
7	(d)			
8	witness.			
9	(e)	Written Testimony. Written testimony on bills may be submitted to the Council at any time following		
10		introduction.		
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