

## Revised

### Office of the County Auditor Auditor's Analysis

#### Council Resolution No. 94-2020

Introduced: June 1, 2020

Auditor: Lisa Geerman

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#### Fiscal Impact:

There will be minimal fiscal impact of this legislation.

According to the Baltimore Sun's Ad Options website, the cost<sup>1</sup> to publish the amendment announcement in the Howard County Times will be approximately \$340.

#### Purpose:

The resolution proposes a change to Section 202 of the County Charter to alter the method for appointing members of a Councilmanic Redistricting Commission.

According to the proposed resolution, the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission shall consist of at least seven members. Each member of the Commission shall be appointed by a separate resolution and by unanimous vote of the Council.

This is a change from the current method of requiring the appointing of Commission members from three nominees from the Central Committee of each political party.

#### Other Comments:

The Charter Review Commission recommended that the final decision about the seven appointees be made by elected officials. However, the Commission did not recommend that the members be appointed by a unanimous vote of the Council.

According to the Office of Law, a super-majority requirement is valid. However, they could not find Maryland law on whether an unanimity requirement for a legislative vote is valid or not. As with all proposed amendments to the County Charter, this amendment will be submitted to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection at the next general election on November 3, 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://placeanad.baltimoresun.com/ad-options/?pub=howard-county-times&type=productpublication>  
\$68 per publication x 5 weeks = \$340