

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2020 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 9

Resolution No. 97 -2020

Introduced by: Deb Jung

A RESOLUTION proposing to amend County Charter Section 212 "County Auditor" by requiring the County Auditor to accompany the County Executive and the Council Chair on all discussions with officials of credit rating agencies; 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 XI-A of the Maryland Constitution.

Introduced and read first time on June 1, 2020.

By order Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County

Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on June 15, 2020.

By order Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, 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This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments , Failed , Withdrawn by the County Council on July 6, 2020.

Certified by Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, 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 **WHEREAS**, the Howard County Charter requires the County Council of Howard
2 County to appoint a County Auditor; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the Council has the power under the Charter to assign additional functions
5 and duties to the County Auditor.

6
7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
8 Maryland, that County Charter Section 212 “County Auditor” is, upon approval of the voters of
9 Howard County, amended to read as follows:

10
11 **Article II. – The Legislative Branch**

12 **Section 212. – County Auditor.**

13
14 Section 212. - County Auditor.

15
16 The Council shall, by resolution, appoint a County Auditor who shall hold office for
17 an indefinite term at the pleasure of the Council and shall receive such compensation as
18 the Council may determine. The County Auditor shall be a certified public accountant
19 licensed for the practice of his or her profession under the laws of this State, and shall be
20 appointed on the basis of his or her knowledge of governmental accounting and auditing
21 and his or her experience pertaining to the duties of his or her office. The County Auditor
22 shall, not later than November 30 of each year, prepare and submit to the Council and to
23 the County Executive, a complete financial audit for the preceding fiscal year of all
24 offices, departments, institutions, boards, commissions, corporations, courts and other
25 agencies of the County government. The Council may in its discretion except those
26 agencies whose entire records, accounts and affairs are completely audited each year with
27 the approval of or by the State government. Such audit shall include a report thereon
28 together with such explanatory comments as the Auditor may deem appropriate. Notice
29 of the availability of the report shall be published in at least one newspaper of general
30 circulation in the County, and copies of the complete audit shall be available to the public
31 and the press in the County Auditor's office and at the public libraries. In addition to any
32 financial audit required by this section, the County Auditor shall have the authority to

1 conduct other financial or management audits. All records and files maintained by all
2 officers, agents and employees of the County and all offices, departments, institutions,
3 boards, commissions, courts and corporations and other agencies thereof, shall at all
4 times be open to the inspection of the County Auditor where necessary for the conduct of
5 his or her office. The County Auditor shall promptly call to the attention of the Council
6 and the County Executive any irregularity or improper procedure which he or she may,
7 from time to time, discover. THE COUNTY AUDITOR SHALL ACCOMPANY THE COUNTY
8 EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL CHAIR ON ALL DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF CREDIT
9 RATING AGENCIES. The Council shall have the power to implement the provisions of this
10 section and to assign additional functions, duties and personnel to the County Auditor not
11 inconsistent with those provided herein. All actions of the Council pursuant to this
12 section shall be exempt from the executive veto.

13

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard
15 County, Maryland, that at the next general election to be held in Maryland, the proposed
16 amendment to the Howard County Charter shall be submitted to the voters of Howard County for
17 their adoption or rejection in accordance with the provisions of the Article X of the Howard
18 County Charter and Article XI-A of the Maryland Constitution, and if adopted by the majority of
19 the voters, shall stand adopted from and after the 30th day following the general election.

20

21 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
22 Maryland, that this Resolution, having been approved by two-thirds of the members of the
23 Howard County Council, stands adopted this ___ day of _____, 2020 in accordance
24 with provisions of Article X of the Howard County Charter.