

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2020 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 9

Resolution No. 99-2020

Introduced by: Christiana Mercer Rigby  
Opel Jones

A RESOLUTION proposing to amend County Charter Section 404 "Citizen Boards" by reducing from five years to three years the number of overlapping terms a Howard County resident may serve on a citizen board, or until a successor is confirmed; 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This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments , Failed , Withdrawn  by the County Council on July 6, 2020.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 establish a Charter Review Commission (“Commission”) every eight years; and  
3

4           **WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2019, the County Council adopted Resolution No. 18-2019,  
5 that established the Charter Review Commission. Resolution No. 18-2019 states that the  
6 Commission’s purpose is to ensure that the Charter is clear in meaning, addresses the needs of  
7 contemporary government, and remains a functional, working document that effectively outlines  
8 the framework for the efficient operation of County government; and  
9

10           **WHEREAS**, the Commission requested recommendations for changes to the Charter  
11 from elected officials, including the County Executive; and  
12

13           **WHEREAS**, because of the difficulty of finding individuals who are willing to commit  
14 to serving a five year term on a citizen board, the County Executive recommended to the  
15 Commission reducing the term of a citizen board member from five years to three years with the  
16 goal of having more individuals who are willing to serve on citizen boards due to a shorter time  
17 commitment; and  
18

19           **WHEREAS**, to ensure that there is a sufficient number of individuals who are willing to  
20 serve on citizen boards that are appropriate to the functions of the Executive and the Legislative  
21 branches of government and to further ensure the efficient operation of County government, the  
22 Commission recommended reducing from five years to three years the terms of citizen board  
23 members.  
24

25           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,  
26 Maryland, that County Charter Section 404 “Citizen Boards” is, upon approval of the voters of  
27 Howard County, amended to read as follows:  
28

29                           **Article IV. – Offices, Departments, and Boards**

30                                   **Section 404. – Citizen Boards.**

31  
32           Section 404. – Citizen Boards.  
33

1 (a) Citizen boards appropriate to the functions of the Executive and the Legislative  
2 branches of government shall be established by law, and the members shall be  
3 appointed by the County Executive with confirmation by the County Council. The  
4 boards may conduct studies and reviews, advise and recommend, and assume other  
5 functions as defined by law. Each board, other than those boards provided by Sections  
6 501, 703 and 902 hereof, shall consist of at least five residents of Howard County who  
7 shall serve for overlapping terms of ~~[[five]]~~ THREE years, or until a successor is  
8 confirmed. Board members shall receive no compensation for their services except  
9 reasonable and necessary expenses as may be provided in the budget. No member shall  
10 be reappointed after having served eight consecutive years immediately before  
11 reappointment.

12 (b) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment or for the  
13 unexpired term.

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

21  
22 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,  
23 Maryland, that this Resolution, having been approved by two-thirds of the members of the  
24 Howard County Council, stands adopted this ~~6th~~ day of July, 2020 in accordance  
25 with provisions of Article X of the Howard County Charter.

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

**Council Resolution No. 99-2020**

Introduced: June 1, 2020

Auditor: Michael A. Martin

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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 legislation proposes a change to Section 404 of the County Charter by shortening the term from five years to three years of those residents appointed to the Citizen Review Board.

Other Comments:

This Charter Amendment was a recommendation proposed by the Charter Review Commission.

Charter amendments must be approved by a two-thirds Council vote and are then submitted to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection.

Any amendment to the Charter must be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the County for five successive weeks prior to the election.

The next general election in Maryland is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

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