

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2014 Legislative Session

Legislative day No. 10

RESOLUTION NO. 113 - 2014

Introduced by: Mary Kay Sigaty, member

Co-sponsored by: Calvin Ball, member

A RESOLUTION amending the Howard County Council Rules of Procedure to ensure that the prefile deadline will not fall on the day before a County Government holiday; and generally relating to the Council Rules of Procedure.

Introduced and read first time on _____, 2014.

By order _____
Sheila Tolliver, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on _____, 2014.

By order _____
Sheila Tolliver, 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This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ____, Adopted with amendments ____, Failed ____, Withdrawn ____ by the County Council on _____, 2014.

Certified by _____
Sheila Tolliver, 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 **(III) THE 2ND DAY PRECEDING THE COUNTY HOLIDAY IF THE PREFILE DEADLINE**
2 **ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (A)(2)(I) OF THIS SECTION FALLS ON A DAY IMMEDIATELY**
3 **BEFORE A COUNTY GOVERNMENT HOLIDAY.**

4 **(3)** Once the agenda has been closed, it may be amended for additions by an affirmative
5 vote of two-thirds of the Councilmembers.

6 **(4)** In case of a duly called emergency session or emergency legislation, the 11-day
7 period does not apply.

8 *(b) Preparation of Nonlegislative Agenda.* The Administrator shall prepare a written agenda for
9 each worksession or hearing which shall include the following:

10 (1) Numbers and titles of all bills and resolutions to be considered.

11 (2) Such other business as may properly come before the Council.

12 *(c) Status of bills.* The Administrator shall prepare an addendum to the agenda for each
13 legislative meeting which shall show the status of all legislative enactments of the current session
14 having been properly introduced but not yet having been finally disposed.

15 *(d) Notice to Councilmember.* The Administration shall forward to each Councilmember a copy
16 of each agenda, as compiled at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to which it pertains.

17
18 **Rule 1.007 Consideration of bills.**

19 *(a) Reading of Bills.* Every bill, before it shall pass the Council, shall be read on three different
20 occasions. Any bill may be rejected upon introduction by a vote of two-thirds of the members of
21 the Council. Any bill may be withdrawn from consideration before final reading by a vote of
22 two-thirds of the members of the Council. On the first reading, a bill shall be read by number and
23 title only when introduced or when read as a substantively amended bill following
24 readvertisement and re-hearing as provided by these Rules. The public hearing shall be the
25 second reading. On final reading, a bill shall be read by number and title only, except that any
26 member may request on final reading that a bill be read once, section by section for amendment
27 before vote on final passage, and, if amended, any member may request that a bill be read as
28 amended before vote on final passage. If amended as to substance, the bill shall not be passed
29 until the title is rewritten to reflect the substance of substantive amendments, a hearing is set on
30 the substantive amendments, and proceedings are conducted as in the case of newly introduced

1 bills. Amendments may be determined to be substantive by a majority vote of the Council upon
2 motion of any member.

3 (b) *Amendments.*

4 (1) Amendments to be prefiled shall be offered in printed form and shall be prefiled with
5 the Council Administrator no later than 2:00 p.m. on:

6 (I) the second working day preceding the legislative session day at which the
7 amendment is to be voted upon; **OR**

8 (II) **THE 2ND DAY PRECEDING THE COUNTY HOLIDAY IF THE PREFILE DEADLINE**
9 **ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (B)(1)(I) OF THIS SECTION FALLS ON A DAY IMMEDIATELY**
10 **BEFORE A COUNTY GOVERNMENT HOLIDAY.**

11 (2) Upon receipt, the Administrator shall promptly cause all prefiled amendments to be
12 distributed to Council Members and posted on the official Council bulletin board.

13 (3) Written amendments that have not been prefiled and any oral amendments may be
14 offered for introduction at the legislative session only after an affirmative vote of two-thirds of
15 the members of the Council present at the legislative session.

16 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, when an amendment is under
17 consideration, a Council Member may offer an amendment to the amendment. However, an
18 amendment to an amendment may not itself be amended.

19 (c) *Call of Bills for Final Reading.* Vote on final passage shall be on roll call by taking of the
20 yeas and the nays. If no member objects, the Council may enact more than one bill by a single
21 combined roll call vote. The call of bills for final reading shall include those bills made a special
22 order of the day.

23 (d) *Enrolled Copy.* After passage of a bill, the Administrator shall promptly prepare an enrolled
24 copy in printed or typewritten form, which shall be presented to the County Executive for his
25 approval within the time required by law. On enrolling, the Administrator shall have authority to
26 correct obvious errors in section references, numbers and references to existing law,
27 capitalization, spelling, grammar, headings and similar matters.

28 (e) *Veto.* When an act has been vetoed by the County Executive and is returned to the Council,
29 the message containing the Executive's objections to the bill shall be entered at large upon the
30 Council Journal. The Council shall proceed to reconsider the bill on the call of bills for final

1 reading, after which the Chairperson shall put the question, "Shall the bill pass notwithstanding
2 the objections of the Executive?" The vote of the Council shall be determined by the yeas and the
3 nays and entered upon the journal, and the votes of at least two-thirds of the members elected to
4 the Council shall be necessary to pass the bill over the Executive's veto.

5 (f) *Incorporation of Amendments.* The Administrator, at the request of any Councilmember, shall
6 prepare a draft working copy of any bill which is placed on the table, incorporating into the text
7 of the bill all passed or proposed amendments to that bill. Such draft working copies of bills shall
8 serve solely as an aid to Councilmembers' understanding of the effect of amendments during
9 their deliberations on whether amendments should be passed or reconsidered.

10

11 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that these amendments to the Howard County
12 Council Rules of Procedure shall take effect on passage of this Resolution.