

**Howard County Charter Review Commission**  
**Table of Discussion Points Currently Under Consideration**  
**As of August 25, 2011**

Code Section	Text	Issue
202	“The legislative power of the County is vested in the County Council of Howard County which shall consist of five members who shall be elected from the Councilmanic Districts.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should there be two more council seats?</li> <li>• If so, should they be County-wide or two additional districts?</li> </ul>
202(g)	“Any amendment, restatement or revision to the Howard County General Plan, the Howard County Zoning Regulations or Howard County Zoning Maps, other than a reclassification map amendment established under the “change and mistake” principle set out by the Maryland Court of Appeals, is declared to be a legislative act and may be passed only by the Howard County Council by original bill in accordance with the legislative procedure set forth in section 209 of the Howard County Charter. Such an act shall be subject to executive veto and may be petitioned to referendum by the people of the county pursuant to section 211 of the Charter.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specify that floating zone applications are not subject to referendum.</li> </ul>
208(h) 209(c) 209(d) 210(b) 604	<p>208(h)“(h) Journal. The Council shall provide for the keeping of a Journal which shall be open to the public inspection at all reasonable times.”</p> <hr/> <p>209(c)“ . . . . Within twenty-four hours after the introduction of any bill, a copy thereof and notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be posted by the Administrator of the Council on an official bulletin board to be maintained in a public place by the Council. . . ”</p> <hr/> <p>209(d)“ . . . . The Administrator of the Council shall, within four hours after its introduction [of an emergency bill], post a copy thereof and notice of time and place of the hearing upon an official bulletin board to be maintained by the Council in a public place. . . ”</p> <hr/> <p>Sec. 210(b) <i>Printing and publication of laws.</i> The Council shall cause each ordinance, resolution, rule and regulation having the force and effect of law and each amendment to this Charter to be printed promptly following its enactment and they shall receive such publication as may from time to time be required by law. The rules,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change or add language: “make available to the public through a readily accessible source,” or similar language, to allow Council to use public sources such as the internet, without restricting the sources that can be used.</li> </ul>

	<p>regulations, ordinances, resolutions and Charter amendments shall be made available to the public at reasonable prices to be fixed by the Council.</p> <hr/> <p>Section 604. The proposed County budget shall be filed with the Administrator of the Council and a copy shall be delivered to each member of the Council. At least three complete copies shall be on file in the office of the Council and shall be available for inspection by the public during regular business hours. One copy shall be supplied to each newspaper of general circulation in the County and to each County library. The budget message and supporting summary tables shall be reproduced in multiple copies, and a copy shall be made available to any interested person on request.</p>	
209(d)	209(d)“ . . . . The Administrator of the Council shall, within four hours after its introduction [of an emergency bill], post a copy thereof and notice of time and place of the hearing upon an official bulletin board to be maintained by the Council in a public place. . .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change time limit for posting emergency legislation to 12 hours</li> </ul>
209 (h)	“Failure of bills. Any bill not passed within sixty-five calendar days after its introduction shall fail, unless, by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members, the Council shall extend the deadline for another thirty days.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add “for a maximum of two extensions” at the end of the sentence; allows the total life of a bill to be 125 days.</li> </ul>
211(a)	“. . . .The referendum petition against any such law shall be sufficient if signed by five per centum of the registered voters of the County, but in any case not less than 1,500 nor more than 5,000 signatures shall be required . . . .”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change the number of signatures needed for a referendum to 5% of the votes cast for governor in the most recent election.</li> </ul>
611	“Unless otherwise provided by public general law, all unexpended and unencumbered appropriations in the current expense budget remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall lapse into the County treasury, except that appropriations to the risk management funds shall be non-reverting . . . .”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclude grants from lapsing appropriations as recommended by the Department of Finance. This allows for grant money, which may come in during the calendar year, to be easily carried over from one</li> </ul>

		fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) to the next. Recommended by the Department of Finance.
906 & 907	<p><b>Section 906. - Copies of books and papers on demand.</b></p> <p>The Executive shall, with reasonable promptness, furnish to any resident of the County, on demand, a certified copy of any book, account or paper kept by any board, commission, office or department of the County government, or such part thereof as may be demanded, except criminal investigation reports, and individual personnel records, upon payment in advance by the person demanding the same, of a reasonable fee to be prescribed by resolution of the Council.</p> <p><b>Section 907. - Inspection of books, accounts and papers.</b></p> <p>All books, accounts, bids, contracts, papers and records of any board, commission, office or department, except criminal investigation reports and individual personnel records, shall at all times be open to the inspection of any resident of the County or representative of the press, subject to such reasonable rules and regulations in regard to the time and manner of such inspection as the Executive may make.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate conflicts with the Maryland Public Information Act, which governs the release of government records to the public, and expand the public right to inspect records to include all persons, not just county residents. Recommended by the Office of Law.</li> </ul>

**Howard County Charter Review Commission**  
**Technical Corrections**  
**As of August 25, 2011**

<b>Code Section</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Issue</b>
202(f)(1) [Technical]	“ . . . Any Councilmanic District established in accordance with this Article shall be compact, contiguous, substantially equal in population, and have common interest as a result of geography, occupation, history, or existing political boundaries.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strike “occupation” from district description – a Supreme Court case provides that occupations cannot be considered as a factor during redistricting.</li> </ul>
501(b) [Technical]		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correct reference to section 25a(u) to 25A(5)(u)</li> </ul>
615 [Technical]		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combine definitions for Section 615A &amp; B or add to definitions in Section 601</li> </ul>
709(c)[Technical]		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correct “thee” to “the”</li> </ul>