

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 23-016

Introduced by Council Members Penman and Boyle-Tsottles

Legislative Day No. 23-014 Date May 2, 2023

AN ACT to propose an amendment to Article II, Legislative Branch, of the Harford County Charter, as amended, by repealing and re-enacting, with amendments, Section 206, Term of Council Members; to provide for term limits for County Council members; and to require the submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Harford County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Section 905 of the Harford County Charter.

By the Council, May 2, 2023

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled:

on: June 6, 2023

at: 6:00 PM

By Order: *Mylia A. Dixon* Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on _____, and concluded on _____.

Mylia A. Dixon, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

1 Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland, that Section 206,
2 Term of Council Members, of Article II, Legislative Branch, of the Harford County Charter, as
3 amended, be, and it is hereby, repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

4 **Article II. Legislative Branch**

5 **Section 206. Term of Council Members.** A Council member shall serve for a term beginning at
6 noon on the first Monday in December next following election, and ending noon on the first Monday
7 in December in the fourth year thereafter. NO PERSON ELECTED OR APPOINTED AS A
8 MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE OFFICE OF
9 COUNCIL MEMBER AFTER SERVING IN SUCH OFFICE FOR THREE FULL FOUR-YEAR
10 TERMS. A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL, HOWEVER, WHO WAS NOT THE
11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT IS NOT PRECLUDED FROM BEING ELECTED OR APPOINTED AS
12 THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT AFTER HAVING SERVED THREE FULL FOUR-YEAR TERMS
13 AS A COUNCIL MEMBER BUT MAY ONLY SERVE THREE FULL FOUR-YEAR TERMS AS
14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT. IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION,
15 NO TERM OR PART OF ANY TERM SERVED PRIOR TO THE ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3,
16 2026 SHALL BE USED IN CALCULATING THE LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF TERMS A
17 COUNCIL MEMBER MAY SERVE.

18 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that before this Act becomes effective, it shall be submitted
19 to a Referendum of the legally qualified voters of Harford County in accordance with Section 905 of
20 the Charter of Harford County, Maryland, at the General Election to be held in November 2024. There
21 shall be printed on the ballots or ballot labels used at this election a brief summary in understandable
22 language of the purpose of this Act, and underneath the summary, on separate lines, a square or box to
23 the right of and opposite the words “For __,” and a corresponding square or box to the right of and
24 opposite the words “Against __,” so that each voter may vote for or against the provisions of this Act.
25 If a majority of the votes cast in the election are “For __,” the provisions of this Act shall become
26 effective from and after the 30th calendar day following the election, but if a majority of the votes cast
27 in the election are “Against __,” the provisions of this Act shall be of no effect and null and void.

28 Section 3. And Be It Further Enacted that subject to the provisions of Section 2 of this Act and for

- 1 the sole purpose of providing for the referendum therein required, this Act shall take effect 60 calendar
- 2 days from the date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE:

The Council Administrator does hereby certify that seven (7) copies of this Bill are immediately available for distribution to the public and the press.

Mylia A. Dixon

Council Administrator

AS INTRODUCED