

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2024, Legislative Day No. 10

Resolution No. 22-24

Introduced by Ms. Pickard

By the County Council, May 6, 2024

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED
Charter Amendment – County Council – Standing Committees

1 RESOLUTION proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to
2 allow the County Council to create and appoint standing committees, to require meetings
3 of standing committees to comply with the Maryland Open Meetings Act, and to require
4 votes of the Council and any standing committees to be recorded in the County Council
5 Journal

6
7 *Be it resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, That the*
8 *following amendment to the Anne Arundel County Charter is proposed for submission to*
9 *the qualified voters of the County at the General Election in November 2024:*

10
11 **Article III. The Legislative Branch**

12
13 **Sec. 303. Action by Council, committees, appointment of.**

14
15 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B), IN **[[In]]** all of its functions and
16 deliberations, the County Council shall act as a body and shall have no power to **[[create**
17 **standing committees or to]]** delegate any of its functions and duties to a smaller number of
18 its members than the whole.

19
20 (B) THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO CREATE STANDING
21 COMMITTEES. ALL COMMITTEES SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE CHAIR OR BY A VOTE OF
22 A MAJORITY PLUS ONE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
23 ESTABLISHED BY THIS CHARTER. THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL
24 TO SERVE ON A COMMITTEE SHALL BE LESS THAN THAT OF A QUORUM OF THE COUNTY
25 COUNCIL. IF A COMMITTEE IS CREATED, ANY MEETING HELD SHALL COMPLY WITH THE
26 RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR A NON-LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

27
28 (C) The Council may**[[, however,]]** appoint special ad hoc committees solely for the
29 purpose of inquiry and fact finding.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law.
[[Brackets]] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Captions and taglines in **bold** in this resolution are catchwords and are not law.
Asterisks *** indicate existing Code provisions in a list or chart that remain unchanged.

1 (D) ALL VOTES OF EACH MEMBER OF A COMMITTEE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL
2 BE RECORDED IN THE COUNCIL'S JOURNAL.

3
4 **Sec. 307. Legislative Procedure.**

5
6 (a) **Public Meetings.** All meetings and legislative sessions of the County Council AND
7 ALL MEETINGS AND NON-LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS OF ANY COMMITTEE THEREOF shall **[[be**
8 **open to the public]]** COMPLY WITH THE MARYLAND OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

9
10 ***

11
12 *And be it further resolved,* That the following question is adopted for submittal to the
13 qualified voters of the County at the General Election in November 2024 for their adoption
14 or rejection:

15
16 “To amend the Anne Arundel County Charter to allow the County Council to create
17 and appoint standing committees, to require meetings of standing committees to comply
18 with the Maryland Open Meetings Act, and to require votes of the Council and any standing
19 committees to be recorded in the County Council Journal.”

20
21 *And be it further resolved,* That this question shall be designated as Question “__” on
22 the ballot at the General Election in November 2024.

23
24 *And be it further resolved,* That if the majority of qualified votes cast in the election
25 are for the Charter Amendment, this amendment shall stand adopted from and after the
26 30th day following the election.