

ARTICLE 7

Miscellaneous Provisions

701. Charter Amendments

This Charter may be amended by the procedures provided in Article XI-A of the Maryland Constitution.

702. Termination of Charter

This Charter may be terminated upon the adoption of a new form of government in accordance with the Maryland Constitution and the public general laws of the State.

703. Charter Review Commission

- (a) A Charter Review Commission shall be appointed by the Council in the third year of the installation of newly elected council members after the election of 2030. A Charter Review Commission may be appointed at such other times as the Council, in its discretion, may determine but at least once every ten (10) years beginning in 2040. The Charter Review Commission shall be composed of seven (7) registered voters of the County, including at least one (1) member from each Council District established pursuant to Section 204 of this Charter. No person shall be eligible for appointment to the Commission who holds elective office. The Chair of the Commission shall be elected from and by the members of the Commission.
- (b) The Commission shall review the provisions of this Charter and make recommendations as to the necessity for deleting, adding, or amending its contents.
- (c) The Commission shall receive an appropriation sufficient to carry out its duties and responsibilities. The members of the Commission may not be entitled to compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses related to their duties to the Commission.
- (d) Except as provided in Subsection (f) of this Section, the Commission shall make its report to the Council at a public hearing within eighteen (18) months following its creation.
- (e) The Commission may be required to report to the Council earlier than the deadline established in Subsection (e) of this Section, if the Council establishes the report deadline at the time the Commission is created.
- (f) Upon delivery of the Commission report, the Commission shall be deemed dissolved and its task completed.

705. Ethics Commission

- (a) There is a County Ethics Commission that consists of five (5) members, and one (1) alternate member. All members are Charles County residents. The County Council and County Executive shall each appoint two members of the commission, respectively. One member shall be appointed by the Charles County Bar Association. The alternate member shall be selected by the Council or the Executive on a rotating basis beginning with the Council at the first opening of an alternate position after the effective date of the charter.

- (b) The commission shall operate under the terms, rules, and procedures set forth in public local law including Chapter 170 of County Code, the Code of Ethics.
- (c) All required financial disclosure statements shall be made available to the public in a searchable and otherwise appropriate electronic format; such availability shall be consistent with Chapter 170 of County Code.
- (d) Financial disclosures required by the commission shall include specific information on contributions and compensation received by the reporting individual or a campaign on the behalf of the reporting individual. Those reported contributions shall include both direct contributions or those from a political action committee.

706. Planning Commission

The Charles County Planning Commission shall consist of Charles County residents.

707. Board of Appeals

The Charles County Board of Appeals shall consist of five (5) members and one (1) alternate, all of whom shall be Charles County residents.