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COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session

1992

Bill No. _____ CB-70-

1992

Chapter No.

Proposed and Presented by _____ Council Member

Pemberton

Introduced by

Co-Sponsors

Date of Introduction

CHARTER AMENDMENT

AN ACT concerning

Amendments to Sections 301, 303, 304 and 305,

Charter of Prince George's County

FOR the purpose of proposing amendments to Sections 301, 303,

304 and 305 of the Charter of Prince George's County to (1) reduce the number of councilmanic districts from nine (9) to six (6); (2) require the election of three (3) at-large council members; (3) provide for the reestablishment of councilmanic districts for the 1994 election; and (4) provide for the sunset of certain provisions for editorial purposes.

BY proposing amendments to:

Section 301,
Section 303,
Section 304, and
Section 305,
Charter of Prince George's County,

Maryland.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the following amendments to Sections 301, 303, 304 and 305, Charter of Prince George's County, Maryland, are hereby proposed:

ARTICLE III

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 301. COMPOSITION. The Legislative Branch of the County government shall consist of the County Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, and the officers and employees thereof. The Council shall be composed of nine members[.]: six district members; and three at large members.

(a) Amendments to Section 301 of this Charter shall become effective on the date the Council enacts the plan described in

Section 305. On that day, the provisions of this Subsection (a) shall be deleted from the text of the Charter without the need for further action by the Council. Deletion of this Subsection (a) shall in no way affect the effective date or the text of other amendments to Section 301 that are not contained in this Subsection (a).

Section 303. ELECTION. [The Council shall be elected at the same time as State officers and in the manner provided by law. Each member of the Council, at the time of the election, shall reside in a different one of the nine Council districts of the County, and shall be nominated and elected by the qualified voters of the Council district in which he resides.]

(a) All members of the Council shall be nominated and elected at the same time as State officers and in the manner provided by law. Six members of the Council, at the time of filing their certificate of candidacy, shall each reside in a different one of six councilmanic districts of the County. Each of these six District Members of the Council shall be nominated and elected by qualified voters of the councilmanic district in which he or she resides. The three other members of the Council shall reside in the County and shall be nominated and elected by the qualified voters of the entire County. Candidates shall file separately for the offices of Council Member at Large, and District Member.

(b) Amendments to this Section 301 accomplished by this Act shall become effective on the date the Council enacts the plan

described in Section 305. On that day the provisions of this Subsection (b) shall be deleted from the text of the Charter without the need for further action by the Council. Deletion of this Subsection (b) from the text of the Charter shall in no way affect the effective date or the text of other amendments to this Section 303 that are not contained in this Subsection (b).

Section 304. COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

(a) Prince George's County is hereby divided into [nine] six (6) Council districts.

(b) The boundaries of the Council districts shall be established pursuant to the provisions of Section 305 of this Charter [prior to the filing dates for the 1982 General Election to become effective on noon of the first Monday in December, 1982].

(c) Amendments to this Section 304 accomplished by this Act shall become effective on the date the plan described in Section 305 becomes law. On that day, the provisions of this Subsection (c) shall be deleted from the text of the Charter. Deletion of this Subsection (c) from the text of the Charter shall in no way affect the effective date or text of other amendments to Section 304 that are not contained in this Subsection (c).

Section 305. REDISTRICTING PROCEDURE.

(a) Except as provided in Subsection (b), the [The] boundaries of Council districts shall be reestablished in 1982 and every tenth year thereafter. Whenever district boundaries

are to be reestablished the Council shall appoint, not later than February 15 of the year prior to the year in which redistricting is to be effective, a commission on redistricting, composed of two members from each political party chosen from a list of five names submitted by the Central Committee of each political party which polled at least fifteen percent of the total vote cast for all candidates for the Council in the immediately preceding regular election. The Council shall appoint one additional member of the Commission.

The Commission shall, at its first meeting, select one of its members to serve as chairman. No person shall be eligible for appointment to the Commission if he holds any elected office. By October 1 of the year prior to the year in which redistricting is to be effective, the Commission shall prepare, publish, and make available a plan of Council districts and shall present that plan, together with a report explaining it, to the Council. The plan shall provide for Council districts that are compact, contiguous, and equal in population. No less than fifteen calendar days and no more than thirty calendar days after receiving the plan of the Commission, the Council shall hold a public hearing on the plan. If within seventy calendar days following presentation of the Commission's plan no other law reestablishing the boundaries of the Council districts has been enacted, then the plan, as submitted, shall become law, as an act of the Council, subject to Sections 320 and 321 of this Charter.

(b) The boundaries of Council districts shall be

reestablished pursuant to the provisions of this Section 305 in calendar year 1993 so that the reduction of councilmanic districts from nine to six will be effective for the 1994 election. Thereafter, the boundaries of Council districts shall be reestablished every tenth year after 1982.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that a copy of this Act be transmitted to the County Executive for publication and that a copy also be transmitted to the Board of Supervisors of Elections for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters of this County at the 1992 General Election pursuant to Section 1105 of the Charter.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the question of adoption of this proposed Charter Amendment shall be submitted to the voters of the County at the General Election occurring on November 3, 1992, and shall be placed on the ballot in the following form:

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

To change, for the 1994 General Election and thereafter, the manner in which Council Members are elected from a system of nine (9) district members to a system of six (6) district members, and three (3) at-large members.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 1992, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the full County Council.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY:

Richard J. Castaldi
Chairman

ATTEST:

Joyce T. Sweeney
Acting Clerk of the Council

KEY:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.