

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2022 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-48-2022
Draft No.: 2
Committee: Committee of the Whole
Date: May 31, 2022
Action: FAV/A

REPORT: Favorable with amendments 10-0: Council Members Hawkins, Burroughs, Dernoga, Glaros, Harrison, Ivey, Medlock, Streeter, Turner, and Taveras. Absent: Franklin.

The Prince George's County Council convened as the Committee of the Whole on May 31, 2022, to consider CB-48-2022 (DR-2).

CB-48-2022 (DR-2) is a Charter amendment bill that amends Section 307 of the Charter pertaining to Council member qualifications and restrictions.

One of the purposes of the bill is to provide that an at-large Council member shall have been a qualified voter of Prince George's County for at least one year immediately preceding their general election. Council members representing one of the nine Council districts shall have been a qualified voter of their respective Council district for at least one year immediately preceding their general election. This is a change from eligibility for at least one year immediately preceding his or her primary election.

Another purpose of the bill is to provide a one-year residency requirement waiver in the following circumstances.

1. To provide that in an election year immediately following an approved decennial redistricting plan changing the boundaries of any Council district, the one-year residency requirement immediately preceding the general election shall not apply.
3. If a person is deemed a qualified voter but no longer resides in their former Council district because of a boundary change in the approved decennial redistricting plan, such person shall have resided in their former Council district for at least one year immediately preceding their general election and shall reside in the same Council district as changed in the approved decennial redistricting plan by the deadline for filing a certificate of candidacy.

A copy of this Act shall be transmitted to the County Executive for publication and that a copy also be transmitted to the Prince George's County Board of Elections for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters of this County at the 2022 General Election pursuant to Section 1105 of the Charter. The question of adoption of the proposed Charter Amendment shall be submitted to the voters of the County at the General Election occurring on November 8, 2022.

The Office of Law reports CB-48-2022 (DR-2) to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its adoption.

The sponsor of the bill, Council member Glaros explained that the bill changes the one-year residency requirement from the primary election to the general election and addresses the recent decennial redistricting plan error during this census and election period. She indicated that this bill will right that error. Council member Turner indicated that there is a ballot question in the 2022 General Election on residency changes for State legislators. Chair Hawkins indicated that he was voting in the affirmative for CB-48-2022 (DR-2).

After discussion, the Prince George's County Council sitting as the Committee of the Whole, reported CB-48-2022 (DR-2) out favorably with amendments, 10-0.