

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2026, Legislative Day No. 10

Bill No. 61-26

Mr. Michael Ertel, Chair
By Request of County Executive

By the County Council, May 4, 2026

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

County Charter – Board of Recreation and Parks

FOR the purpose of amending the County Charter to add representatives to the Board of Recreation and Parks; amending the duties and functions of the Board; converting gendered language to gender-neutral language; and generally relating to the County Charter and the Board of Recreation and Parks.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Section 533
Article V – The Administrative Services
Division 3 – Departments in the Administrative Services
Subdivision 4 – Department of Recreation and Parks
Baltimore County Charter

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE
2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that under the authority granted to it by Section 1202 of the Baltimore
3 County Charter, Section 533 of Article V – The Administrative Services of the Baltimore County
4 Charter is proposed to be repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

5
6 Article V – The Administrative Services

7 Division 3 – Departments in the Administrative Services

8 Subdivision 4 – Department of Recreation and Parks

9
10 Section 533. Board of recreation and parks.

11 (a) There shall be a board of recreation and parks which shall consist of a
12 [representative] DISTRICT-LEVEL MEMBER selected from among the qualified residents of
13 each councilmanic district plus [three] FOUR additional AT-LARGE members selected from
14 among the qualified residents of the entire county; provided, however, that not more than two
15 members thereof shall reside in any one councilmanic district; and provided further, that no
16 member of the board shall be required to vacate [his] THEIR office prior to the expiration of the
17 term for which the member was appointed by reason of any revision in the boundary lines of the
18 councilmanic districts. The members of the board shall be appointed by the county executive
19 FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS and shall have resided within the county for a period of three
20 years preceding their appointment. THE APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT-LEVEL MEMBERS
21 SHALL BE MADE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNTY
22 COUNCILMEMBER OF THE DISTRICT. [A minimum of three members] MEMBERS of the
23 board shall be appointed with due regard to their training, experience, and interest in [the natural

1 sciences and conservation.] RECREATION, NATURE, ARTS, SCIENCES, AND PARKS.

2 ~~MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL BE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN TWO~~

3 ~~CONSECUTIVE TERMS.~~ Additional qualifications and the terms of office of members of the
4 board shall be as provided by law.

5 (b) Unless and until otherwise provided by legislative act of the county council, [the
6 board of recreation and parks shall have and perform all duties and functions relating to the
7 formulation of plans and policies for public recreation, the organization of recreation councils,
8 the establishment of recreation programs and the acquisition, management, preservation and
9 development of all lands, waters, buildings and other facilities in Baltimore County as parks and
10 recreation areas and facilities, subject, nevertheless, to all provisions of this Charter, including
11 those dealing with the employment, suspension and discharge of personnel, the expenditure of
12 county funds, the making of purchases, and the awarding of contracts.] THE BOARD OF
13 RECREATION AND PARKS, SERVING IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE
14 DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS, SHALL:

15 (1) HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS;

16 (2) PROMOTE THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS AND
17 ADVISE THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS ON MATTERS RELATED TO
18 RECREATION, NATURE, OPEN SPACE, ARTS, AND CULTURE;

19 (3) ADVOCATE FOR PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AMENITIES, CAPITAL
20 ENHANCEMENTS, ACQUISITIONS, AND INVESTMENTS THAT BENEFIT THE
21 DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS AND THE COUNTY;

22 (4) ENGAGE COUNTY ~~RESIDENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS~~ RESIDENTS,
23 NATURE AND RECREATION COUNCILS, AND EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS WITH

1 THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS; AND

2 (5) WORK ON OTHER ISSUES AS REQUESTED BY AND IN
3 CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS.

4
5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that pursuant to Section 1202 of the
6 Baltimore County Charter, the question of whether or not the Charter is to be amended as
7 proposed by this Act shall be submitted to the voters of Baltimore County at the general election
8 on November 3, 2026, and that this Act shall be published in at least two newspapers of general
9 circulation in the County for five successive weeks prior to the election.

10
11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that upon ratification by the voters of
12 Baltimore County, this Act shall become effective from and after the thirtieth day following the
13 2026 general election.



LEGISLATION DETAIL

LEGISLATION _____

DISPOSITION _____

ENACTED _____

EFFECTIVE _____

AMENDMENTS _____

ROLL CALL - BILL

MOTION

AYE NAY

SECOND

Councilman Young

Councilman Patoka

Councilman Jones

Councilman Marks

Councilman Ertel

Councilman Crandell

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION

AYE NAY

SECOND

Councilman Young

Councilman Patoka

Councilman Jones

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