

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2026, Legislative Day No. 19

Bill No. 109-26

All Councilmembers
&
Mr. Michael Ertel, Chairman
By Request of County Executive

By the County Council, October 19, 2026

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

County Seal of Baltimore County

FOR the purpose of amending certain references in the County Code regarding the number of stars on the County Seal; adopting an updated County Seal to reflect the increase in councilmanic districts from seven to nine; and generally relating to the County Seal.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Section 1-1-102
Article 1 – General Provisions
Title 1 – Baltimore County
Baltimore County Code, 2015

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.

WHEREAS, Section 1007 of the County Charter, which was part of the original Charter adopted in 1956, sets forth requirements for a County seal and the process through which the seal may be adopted; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 1007 states that “the County Council shall, by ordinance enacted at its first legislative session, adopt a County seal, and thereafter it may use and alter the same at pleasure. The seal shall contain the corporate name of the County and such other information or insignia as the County Council may determine”; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 1957, the first County Council of Baltimore County passed a resolution under Charter Section 1007 soliciting designs from the County citizens, including students and teachers, for a Common Seal of Baltimore County to appear on all official letters and stationery; and

WHEREAS, more than 33 designs were submitted and each artist received an official certificate from the County Council, with the winner earning a \$100 savings bond; and

WHEREAS, the winning design, by Towson resident Adelaide M. Haspert, features the Calvert and Crossland Coats of Arms and seven stars representing the County’s seven councilmanic districts; and

WHEREAS, the official County Seal was approved by the County Council and enacted into law on June 10, 1957 and continues to serve as a proud symbol of Baltimore County; and

WHEREAS, with the approval of a ballot question by the voters of Baltimore County in the 2024 general election, the Baltimore County Council will expand from seven members to nine members, beginning with the 2026 election; and

WHEREAS, the first nine-member County Council will be sworn in on December 7, 2026, representing the first change to the size of the County Council since the County Charter was adopted in 1956; and

WHEREAS, since the 2024 ballot question was approved, the Council and the Administration have worked together to prepare for the expansion to nine Councilmembers; and

WHEREAS, these efforts have included updating County Code provisions, revising the membership of County boards and commissions, renovating the Council offices and Council chambers, and hours of behind-the-scenes administrative work; and

WHEREAS, the Administration and the Council hereby find that the adoption of an updated nine-star County Seal is a fitting capstone to nearly two years of preparations and a wonderful welcome to the first nine-member County Council of Baltimore County; now therefore

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE
2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the laws of Baltimore County shall read as follows:

3
4 ARTICLE 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

5 Title 1 – Baltimore County

6
7 § 1-1-102. Common seal.

8 The common seal of the county, as presented to the Council by Adelaide M. Haspert,
9 shall be circular in shape and convenient in size and shall contain:

10 (1) The corporate name of Baltimore County, Maryland;

1 (2) The Calvert and Crossland coats of arms; and

2 (3) [Seven] NINE stars representing the [seven] NINE councilmanic districts.

3
4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that the County Council hereby
5 adopts the new nine-star design, attached as Exhibit A, as the common seal of Baltimore County,
6 Maryland.

7
8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed by
9 the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect December 7, 2026.