

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 472

(Senator Hettleman)

Judicial Proceedings

Government, Labor, and Elections

Baltimore County Code of Public Local Laws - 2025 Edition - Legalization

This bill legalizes the 2025 Edition of the Baltimore County Code of Public Local Laws and any supplement to it that contains laws enacted by the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore County can likely handle publication costs with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Baltimore County Code is legalized approximately every ten years. Chapter 159 of 2015 legalized the 2015 Edition of the Baltimore County Code, Chapter 251 of 2004 legalized the 2003 Edition of the Baltimore County Code, and Chapter 6 of 1990 legalized the 1988 Edition of the Baltimore County Code.

Baltimore County is 1 of 11 counties that operates under the charter form of government. Charter counties have express powers delegated to them by the General Assembly. Charter counties do not need to seek General Assembly approval for changes to local laws except laws regarding alcoholic beverages, courts, criminal law, education, campaign finance regulation, gambling, and taxation exclusive of property taxes. However, legalizing changes enacted by the General Assembly to the new edition of the county code and any supplement must receive approval of the General Assembly.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Cross File: HB 732 (Delegate Ebersole) - Government, Labor, and Elections.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 2026
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