

# Public Local Laws of Maryland – Compilation of Municipal Charters

## Preface

In response to the growing complexity, volume, and importance of municipal law, the Compilation of Municipal Charters was legalized under Chapter 77 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1983. The Compilation was first prepared by the Department of Legislative Reference in accordance with Chapter 78 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1983. In 1990, the Department of Legislative Reference reprinted the entire Compilation as a result of the transfer of the municipal charter database to an updated computer system. Supplements to the Compilation have been published annually since 1983.

Chapter 14 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1997 codified the 1983 legalization of the Compilation in § 10–201.1 of the Courts Article. Accordingly, the Compilation is now cited as “Public Local Laws of Maryland – Compilation of Municipal Charters”. In addition, Chapter 14 directed the former Department of Legislative Reference to reprint in the Compilation the charters of those municipal corporations that had been granted urban renewal powers for slum clearance under Article III, § 61 of the Maryland Constitution. The reprinting of those charters was accomplished by the Department of Legislative Services in the 1997 supplement to the Compilation.

Before passage of the 1983 legislation that created the Compilation, researching the charters of Maryland’s municipal corporations had become increasingly difficult because some charters were found in the public local laws of counties, some in separate publications by individual municipal corporations, and some were not published at all, but rather were loose collections of resolutions. Moreover, some municipal charters were regularly updated, while the status of other charters was questionable.

In keeping with its statutory obligation, the Department of Legislative Services is pleased to present the Revision 10 Supplement to the 2008 Edition. Please note that due to an upgrade to our software in 2014, charters that had changes now show “Reprinted November 20\_\_” on the title page and are reprinted in their entirety. Once a charter has been printed in the upgraded software, subsequent changes will be printed with replacement point pages that include revised notes.

We trust that this Compilation and the annual supplements continue to be of value to the citizens, elected officials, and members of the bench and bar who work with municipal charters and related issues.

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