HOUSE BILL 381

By: Delegate Solomon
Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2022
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning Municipalities – Charter Amendments – Notice

FOR the purpose of modifying the manner in which the chief executive officer of a municipality may fulfill certain notice requirements; and generally relating to methods of providing notice of municipal charter amendment resolutions.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Local Government
Section 4–304(b) and 4–305(f)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2013 Volume and 2021 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Local Government

4–304.

(b) (1) The chief executive officer of the municipality shall give notice of the resolution that proposes an amendment to the municipal charter by:

[(1)] (I) posting an exact copy of the resolution at the main municipal building or other public place for the 40 days after the resolution is adopted; and

[(2)] (II) 1. publishing a fair summary of the proposed amendment in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality:

[(i)] A. at least four times;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(ii) B. at weekly intervals; and

(iii) C. within the 40 days after the resolution is adopted; OR

2. DELIVERING A COPY OF A FAIR SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT EITHER BY HAND OR BY MAIL ONCE TO EVERY RESIDENCE IN THE MUNICIPALITY.

(2) THE DELIVERY REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(II)2 OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED BY INCLUDING A FAIR SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT IN A NEWSLETTER OR ANY OTHER REGULAR MUNICIPAL PUBLICATION.

4–305.

(f) (1) The chief executive officer of the municipality shall give notice of a submission of a proposed charter amendment by:

[(1)] (i) 1. posting an exact copy of the proposed amendment at the main municipal building or other public place for at least 4 weeks immediately preceding the referendum at which the question is to be submitted; and

[(ii)] 2. on the day of the referendum, posting a similar copy at the place for voting; and

[(2)] (II) 1. publishing notice of the referendum and a fair summary of the proposed amendment in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality at least once in each of the 4 weeks immediately preceding the referendum; OR

2. DELIVERING A COPY OF A FAIR SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT EITHER BY HAND OR BY MAIL TO EVERY RESIDENCE IN THE MUNICIPALITY.

(2) THE DELIVERY REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(II)2 OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED BY INCLUDING A FAIR SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT IN A NEWSLETTER OR ANY OTHER REGULAR MUNICIPAL PUBLICATION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.