

SENATE BILL 368

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CF 2lr1521

By: **Senator Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Municipalities – Charter Amendments – Notice**

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

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Local Government
8 Section 4–304(b) and 4–305(f)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2013 Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Local Government**

14 4–304.

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 [(ii)] B. at weekly intervals; and

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

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

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

10 4–305.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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