

Chapter 948

(Senate Bill 894)

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore City – Control Over Powers of Police Commissioner

FOR the purpose of repealing a prohibition on certain Baltimore City ordinances or acts of certain municipal officials from conflicting, impeding, obstructing, hindering, or interfering with the powers of the Baltimore City Police Commissioner; making a portion of this Act contingent on the passage and ratification, by a certain date, of a certain Baltimore City Charter amendment; and generally relating to the Baltimore City Police Commissioner.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

The Charter of Baltimore City

Article II – General Powers

Section (27)

(2007 Replacement Volume, as amended)

(As enacted by Chapters 39 and 40 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2009)

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

The Charter of Baltimore City

Article II – General Powers

The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall have full power and authority to exercise all of the powers heretofore or hereafter granted to it by the Constitution of Maryland or by any Public General or Public Local Laws of the State of Maryland; and in particular, without limitation upon the foregoing, shall have power by ordinance, or such other method as may be provided for in its Charter, subject to the provisions of said Constitution and Public General Laws:

(27)

To have and exercise within the limits of Baltimore City all the power commonly known as the Police Power to the same extent as the State has or could exercise that power within the limits of Baltimore City[; provided, however, that no ordinance of the City or act of any municipal officer, other than an act of the Mayor pursuant to Article IV of this Charter, shall conflict, impede, obstruct, hinder or interfere with the powers of the Police Commissioner].

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) Section 1 of this Act shall take effect contingent on the passage of an amendment to the Charter of Baltimore City that provides for the appointment, terms of office, and the powers and duties of the Baltimore City Police Commissioner and the powers and duties of the Baltimore City Police Department and its ratification by the voters of Baltimore City at the 2024 general election.

(b) If an amendment to the Charter of Baltimore City that provides for the appointment, terms of office, and the powers and duties of the Baltimore City Police Commissioner and the powers and duties of the Baltimore City Police Department is ratified at the 2024 general election, Section 1 of this Act shall take effect January 1, 2025.

(c) If an amendment to the Charter of Baltimore City that provides for the appointment, terms of office, and the powers and duties of the Baltimore City Police Commissioner and the powers and duties of the Baltimore City Police Department is not passed and ratified at the 2024 general election, Section 1 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be null and void.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section 2 of this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2024.