

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

2025 Legislative Session

Bill 2025-07

Commissioners Term Limits

Introduced by Charles County Commissioners

FOR the purpose of Adopting a local law to limit the number of terms permitted to be served by any member of the Board of County Commissioners for Charles County, Maryland. By amending: Chapter 27 – Commissioners, County. By adding: Section 27-1(C) – Term Limits, *Code of Charles County, Maryland*

Date introduced: 07/ 22/ 2025

Public Hearing: 11 /18 / 2025 Virtual and In-Person @ 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Action: 11/18/2025

Commissioner Votes: RBC: Y, GB: N, TC: Y, AS: N, RP: Y

Pass/Fail: Pass

Effective Date: 01/02/2026

Remarks: _____

NOTE: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing text.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

1 **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND**

2
3 **2025 Legislative Session**

4
5 Bill No. 2025-

6 07_____

7 Chapter 27

8
9 Introduced by Board of Charles County

10 Commissioners_____

11 Date of Introduction July 22,

12 2025_____

13
14 **BILL**

15
16 AN ACT concerning:

17
18 **TERM LIMITS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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20 FOR the purpose of:

21 Adopting a local law to limit the number of terms permitted to be served by any
22 member of the Board of County Commissioners for Charles County, Maryland.

23
24 BY Amending:

25 Chapter 27 – Commissioners, County

26 BY Adding:

27 Section 27-1(C) – Term Limits

28 *Code of Charles County, Maryland*

29
30 **SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

1 **OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Charles County,**
2 **Maryland read as follows:**

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5 **Chapter 27 – Commissioners, County**
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9 § 27-1. Number of Commissioners designated; terms; Redistricting Board.

10 A. There shall be five County Commissioners for Charles County in accordance
11 with

12 § 27-1A(1) through § 27-1A(5) of this chapter, who are registered voters of this County.
13 The County Commissioners shall be elected at the General Election held in 1994 and
14 every four years thereafter, for terms of four years. The terms of the Commissioners
15 shall begin on the first Tuesday of December following the General Election or as soon
16 afterwards as certified by the Governor.

17 (1) One county commissioner shall reside in Commissioner District One for
18 at least 18 consecutive months immediately preceding the general
19 election, and be elected by a plurality of votes cast by voters of District
20 One;

21 (2) One county commissioner shall reside in Commissioner District Two for
22 at least 18 consecutive months immediately preceding the general
23 election, and be elected by a plurality of votes cast by voters of District
24 Two;

25 (3) One county commissioner shall reside in Commissioner District Three
26 for at least 18 consecutive months immediately preceding the general
27 election, and be elected by a plurality of votes cast by voters of District
28 Three;

29 (4) One county commissioner shall reside in Commissioner District Four for
30 at least 18 consecutive months immediately preceding the general
31 election, and be elected by a plurality of votes cast by voters of District
32 Four; and

33 (5) One County Commissioner shall hold the position of President of the
34 County Commissioners, and shall reside in any Commissioner District of
35 the County for at least 18 consecutive months immediately preceding the
36 general election, and shall be elected at large.

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38 B. Redistricting Board.

39 (1) Not later than January 1, 1992, a seven-member Redistricting Board
40 shall be appointed as provided for in Subsection B(2) of this section.

41 (2) The Redistricting Board shall be composed of three appointees of the
42 County Commissioners, two appointees of the Democratic Central
43 Committee and two appointees of the Republican Central Committee.

44 [Amended 6-22-2021 by Bill No. 2021-03]

- 1 (a) The selection of members shall be intended to produce a
2 commission that is independent from legislative influence,
3 impartial, and reasonably representative of the County's diversity
4 and geographical, racial and gender makeup.
5 (b) None of the appointees shall be employees of the County or the
6 state.
7 (c) No appointee may be:
8 [1] A member or candidate for any political office in the
9 county, state, or United States.
10 [2] An officer or employee of a political party or political
11 committee.
12 [3] A member of staff of the Governor, Maryland General
13 Assembly, or United States Congress; or
14 [4] A current registered lobbyist in the state or County.
15 (d) Each appointee shall be a voter who, for at least three years
16 immediately preceding the date of appointment, has been
17 registered in the state continuously with the same political party
18 or continuously with neither the Democratic Party nor the
19 Republican Party.
20 (e) The Redistricting Board shall convene not later than 30 days after
21 appointment to organize and elect a Chairman from among its
22 members.
23 (3) By July 1, 1992, the Redistricting Board shall establish the tentative
24 boundaries of the four Commissioner Districts after due consideration
25 and investigation within reasonable and lawful guidelines. The
26 Redistricting Board shall give priority consideration to election district
27 lines, as well as to demographics and geography. The Redistricting
28 Board shall set and conduct public hearings in each of the proposed four
29 Commissioner Districts after tentative district boundaries have been
30 drawn and defined. Notice of public hearings giving time, date and place
31 shall be published in two County newspapers 10 days prior to the public
32 hearings. After all public hearings have been held and a final draft of the
33 districting plan has been completed, the Redistricting Board shall submit
34 the districting plan to the County Commissioners not later than
35 December 1, 1992. This plan shall then become law unless the plan is set
36 aside by a court of law with proper jurisdiction. After the plan becomes
37 law, the Redistricting Board shall terminate its existence.
38 (4) Necessary clerical assistance shall be provided to assist the Redistricting
39 Board by the County Commissioners.
40 (5) Subsequent Redistricting Boards shall be appointed within one year after
41 the publication of the national decennial census and the same appointing
42 procedure outlined above shall be followed, including the timetable
43 established herein.
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C. TERM LIMITS

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- (1) BEGINNING WITH ALL PERSONS ELECTED AS COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM BEGINNING DECEMBER 6, 2022, NO PERSON MAY SERVE AS A COUNTY COMMISSIONER MORE THAN TWO (2) TERMS, WHETHER CONSECUTIVE OR NON-CONSECUTIVE. THE TERM LIMITATION DESCRIBED HEREIN APPLIES TO BOTH THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, PRESIDENT, AND ANY COMBINATION THEREOF WITHIN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THEREFORE, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TERMS A PERSON MAY SERVE ON THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN ANY CAPACITY IS TWO (2) TERMS, WHETHER CONSECUTIVE OR NON-CONSECUTIVE.
- (2) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, A COUNTY COMMISSIONER, WHETHER ELECTED OR APPOINTED TO FILL A VACANCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE 9-402 OF THE MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE, WHO HAS WHO HAS SERVED TWO (2) OR MORE YEARS OF A TERM SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE SERVED ONE (1) FULL TERM OF THE TWO (2) TERMS PERMITTED TO BE SERVED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.
- (3) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBSECTION, A COUNTY COMMISSIONER WHO IS SUSPENDED OR REMOVED FROM OFFICE AT ANY TIME DURING THEIR TERM AS A RESULT OF BEING FOUND GUILTY OF ANY CRIME WHICH IS A FELONY, OR WHICH IS A MISDEMEANOR RELATED TO THEIR PUBLIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE SERVED ONE (1) FULL TERM OF THE TWO (2) TERMS PERMITTED TO BE SERVED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

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SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS FROM THE DATE IT IS ADOPTED.

Asterisks *** mean intervening code language remaining unchanged
CAPITALS mean language added to the law
[Brackets] mean language deleted from the law

1 ADOPTED this 18th day of November 2025.
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5 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
6 CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND
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11 
12 Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq. President

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15 Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., Vice President
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18 **Declined to Sign**
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21 Gilbert O. Bowling, III

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24 Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.
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27 **Declined to Sign**
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30 Amanda M. Stewart, Ed.D.
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36 ATTEST:

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39 Carol DeSoto, CAP, OM, Clerk