

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND
LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2024-15**

BILL NO. 2024-18

Title of Bill: Amendment – Ethics – Chapter 39, Section 39-4, Membership; Terms and Section 39-5, Chairman

Synopsis: A Bill to amend Chapter 39 – Ethics, of the Code of Cecil County, Sections 39-4, Membership; Terms Section and 39-5, Chairman, to reflect changes to the Charter of Cecil County as it relates to the membership and terms of the Cecil County Ethics Commission.

Introduced by: Council President

Introduced and order posted on: August 20, 2024

Public hearing scheduled on: September 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Consideration scheduled on: October 1, 2024

By: _____
Council Manager

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice of time and place of public hearing and title of Bill having been posted by August 20, 2024 at the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton, and having been published according to the Charter on September 4, 2024 and September 11, 2024, a public hearing was held on September 17, 2024 and concluded on September 17, 2024.

By: _____
Council Manager

Explanation: CAPITAL LETTERS INDICATE LANGUAGE ADDED TO EXISTING DOCUMENT
~~Strike through~~ indicates language deleted from existing document
Underlining indicates language added to document by amendment.
~~Double Strike through~~ indicates language stricken from document by amendment.

Amendment – Ethics - Chapter 39, Section 39-4, Membership; Terms and Section 39-5, Chairman

1 **WHEREAS**, Cecil County, recognizing that our system of representative government is
2 dependent in part upon the people maintaining the highest trust in their public officials and
3 employees, finds and declares that the people have a right to be assured that the impartiality and
4 independent judgment of public officials and employees will be maintained; and

5 **WHEREAS**, this confidence and trust is eroded when the conduct of the County's business is
6 subject to improper influence and even the appearance of improper influence; and

7 **WHEREAS**, for the purpose of guarding against improper influence, the County has enacted a
8 Public Ethics Law to require County elected officials, officials, employees, and individuals appointed to
9 boards and commissions, to disclose their financial affairs and to set minimum standards for the
10 conduct of local government business; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Cecil County elected officials, officials, employees, and individuals uphold the
12 highest standards of ethics; and

13 **WHEREAS**, The voters of Cecil County approved a change to Section 607 - Ethics
14 Commission in the Cecil County Charter on November 8, 2022 as it relates to the membership and
15 terms of the Ethics Commission; and,

16 **WHEREAS**, Chapter 39, Article II, § 39-4 Membership and § 39-5 Chairman, will need to be
17 revised to reflect the Section 607 of the Charter of Cecil County; and

18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL**

19 **COUNTY, MARYLAND**, that Chapter 39, Article II, § 39-4 Membership and § 39-5 Chairman, of the
20 Code of Cecil County is hereby amended as follows:

21 Chapter 39 Ethics

22 Article II Ethics Commission

23 Section 39-4. Membership; terms

24 A. There shall be a Cecil County Ethics Commission, which shall be composed of five members ~~appointed~~
25 ~~by the County Executive, in accordance with the Charter, to staggered four year terms. THREE~~
26 **MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE CHAIR, SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
27 **SECTION 412 OF THE CHARTER; TWO OF THE MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL AND**
28 **CONFIRMED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE. ANY VETO BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF A COUNTY**
29 **COUNCIL APPOINTMENT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO SECTION 306 OF THE CHARTER.**

30 B. The Commission members shall serve four-year ~~overlapping~~ **STAGGERED** terms. All members shall

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31 reside in and be qualified voters of Cecil County.

32 C. Not more than three members of the Commission shall be affiliated with the same political party.

33 D. A Commission member may serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

34 Section 39-5 ~~Chairman~~. **RESERVED**

35 ~~A. The Commission shall elect a Chairman from among its members.~~

36 ~~B. The term of the Chairman is one year.~~

37 ~~C. The Chairman may be reelected.~~

38 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND,** that, in
39 the event any portion of this legislation is found to be unconstitutional, illegal, null or void, it is the
40 intent of the County Council to sever only the invalid portion or provision, and that the remainder of
41 the Resolution shall be enforceable and valid.

42 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND,** that
43 the foregoing recitals are adopted as if fully rewritten herein.

44 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND,** that
45 this Bill shall take effect 60 calendar days from the date that it becomes law.

CERTIFICATION

I, HEREBY CERTIFY that the above Bill was posted for the public on the public bulletin board with the date, time and location of the public hearing meeting, copies were made available for the public, a copy was distributed to the press, and copy was made available on the Cecil County website.

BY: Council Manager