

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 4

Resolution No. 5-25

Introduced by Ms. Hummer

By the County Council, February 18, 2025

1 RESOLUTION amending portions of Titles 3 and 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the
2 County Council

3
4 WHEREAS, on June 3, 2024 the County Council passed Resolution No. 20-24
5 proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to require that all
6 meetings and legislative sessions of the County Council comply with the Maryland
7 Open Meetings Act; and

8
9 WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20-24, amending the Charter, was placed on the
10 November 5, 2024 ballot as Question B; and

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12 WHEREAS, Question B was approved by the voters of Anne Arundel County with
13 89.44% of the vote resulting in the Charter Amendment going into effect on
14 December 4, 2024; and

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16 WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 208(g) of the Charter, the County Council is
17 required to adopt rules of procedure; and

18
19 WHEREAS, Section 1-103 of these Rules of Procedure provides that the County
20 Council may amend the Rules by resolution provided the amendment is submitted
21 in writing to the County Council at least seven days before the action on the
22 resolution; and now, therefore, be it

23
24 *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, That Section(s)*
25 *3-102(e), 3-104 (a) and (b), 3-105(a), 3-106, and 5-101(b) of the Rules of Procedure of*
26 *the County Council of Anne Arundel County (February, 2024) read as follows:*

27
28 **TITLE 3. MEETINGS IN GENERAL**

29
30 **3-102. Times.**

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32 ***

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law.
[[Brackets]] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Captions and taglines in **bold** in this bill are catchwords and are not law.
Asterisks *** indicate existing Code provisions in a list or chart that remain unchanged.

1 (E) CLOSED MEETING. AT THE DIRECTION OF A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL, A MEETING
2 MAY BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC ONLY FOR REASONS ALLOWED IN THE MARYLAND OPEN
3 MEETINGS ACT. ANY CLOSED MEETING, EXCEPT A MEETING THAT IS CLOSED TO DISCUSS
4 A PERSONNEL ISSUE, MAY BE ATTENDED BY ANY COUNCILMEMBER, LEGISLATIVE
5 ASSISTANT TO A COUNCILMEMBER, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL
6 STAFF MEMBER UNLESS THE COUNCIL EXPRESSLY FURTHER RESTRICTS ATTENDANCE.
7 THE RECORD OF A CLOSED MEETING INCLUDES THE ATTENDANCE OF ALL PERSONS
8 PRESENT AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE OPEN MEETINGS LAW. UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY
9 STATE LAW, ANY TESTIMONY TAKEN, OR EVIDENCE RECEIVED IN A CLOSED MEETING
10 SHALL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL AND MAY NOT BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC FOR
11 INSPECTION. IF A PERSON ATTENDS A CLOSED MEETING REMOTELY, THEN A VERBAL
12 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SUCH CONFIDENTIALITY AND NON-DISCLOSURE OF EACH
13 REMOTE ATTENDEE WILL BE RECORDED ON A FORM PROVIDED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE
14 OFFICER.

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16 **3-104. Notice.**

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18 (a) Legal notice required. WHEN A MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED THAT REQUIRES LEGAL
19 NOTICE, [[The]] THE Administrative Officer to the County Council shall give the
20 APPROPRIATE legal notice [[required by law for a legislative session, or public hearing]]
21 and shall provide information to the news media and the public as to the known items of
22 agenda, purpose, and matters pending before the County Council.

23
24 (b) Other meetings. When a meeting has been called that does not require legal notice[[,
25 such as a work session on pending matters,]] the Administrative Officer shall provide
26 information to the news media and the public as to the known items of agenda and purpose
27 of the meeting.

28
29 **3-105. Participation by public.**

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31 (a) Generally. Reasonable seating facilities shall be provided for the public at each
32 legislative session or OPEN meeting of the County Council, and the public is encouraged
33 and invited to attend. At each legislative session and public hearing, a reasonable amount
34 of time shall be provided for members of the public to address the County Council on
35 pertinent matters of public business not otherwise provided for. Special hearings on
36 pending legislation or the budget are convened for the express purpose of obtaining public
37 participation and comment. The public shall maintain order and decorum in keeping with
38 the dignity of the governmental process, and shall refrain from interfering with the process.
39 Discussions of the County Council may be recorded, provided the recording device does
40 not generate excessive noise, use excessive artificial light, interfere with County recording
41 devices or disturb County Council members or individuals in attendance.

42
43 **3-106. Participation by news media.**

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45 Reasonable seating facilities shall be provided for representatives of the news media at
46 each OPEN meeting of the County Council, and the representatives are encouraged and
47 invited to attend. Radio and television coverage may be provided at OPEN meetings of the
48 County Council. At the discretion of the Chair or on request of a majority of the members
49 of the County Council present, a meeting may be briefly recessed for the purpose of taking
50 photographs or discussions with representatives of the news media. Representatives of the

1 news media shall maintain order and decorum in keeping with the dignity of the
2 governmental process and shall refrain from interfering with the process.

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4 **5-101. Introduction.**

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6 (b) Resolutions. A resolution may be introduced by a member at any OPEN meeting of
7 the County Council.

READ AND PASSED this 3rd day of March, 2025

By Order:



Kaley Schultze
Administrative Officer

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT RESOLUTION NO. 5-25 IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND DULY
ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.



Julie K. Hummer
Chair