

Bob Monroe

1   
2 Chairman Phil Mendelson

Gloria C. Ali

## 6 Councilmember Elissa Silverman

*A. A.*

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## Councilmember Charles Allen

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

20 To amend the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 to require the Board of Elections to  
21 solicit an opinion from the Attorney General for the District of Columbia and the General  
22 Counsel of the Council of the District of Columbia on the proper subject determination of  
23 an initiative or referendum measure and to consult those entities on the legislative drafting  
24 of the measure, to clarify the congressional review period for a referendum measure, and  
25 to require that initiative measures be placed on a general election ballot.

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
27 act may be cited as the "Initiative and Referendum Process Improvement Amendment Act of  
28 2019".

29 Sec. 2. Section 16 of the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955, effective June 7,  
30 1979 (69 Stat. 704; D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.16), is amended as follows:

31 (a) Subsection (b) is amended by adding a new paragraph (1A) to read as follows:

32                   “(1A) Before the Board accepts a measure as a proper subject of initiative or  
33 referendum, the Board shall solicit opinions from the Attorney General for the District of Columbia  
34 and the General Counsel of the Council of the District of Columbia on whether the measure is a  
35 proper subject of initiative or referendum.”.

36 (b) Subsection (c)(3) is amended by striking the phrase "The Board may consult experts in  
37 the field of legislative drafting, including, but not limited to, Corporation Counsel of the District  
38 of Columbia and officers of the Council of the District of Columbia" and inserting the phrase "The  
39 Board shall consult experts in the field of legislative drafting, including the Attorney General for  
40 the District of Columbia and the General Counsel of the Council of the District of Columbia" in  
41 its place.

42 (c) Subsection (m) is amended by striking the phrase "Congress for review" and inserting  
43 the phrase "Congress for the remaining period of review" in its place.

44 (d) Subsection (p)(1) is amended by striking the phrase "primary, general, or city-wide  
45 special election" and inserting the phrase "general election" in its place.

### 46 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

47 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact  
48 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved  
49 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

#### 50 Sec. 4. Effective date.

51 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
52 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
53 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24,  
54 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
55 Columbia Register.