

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

City Council



Ordinance No. 29-0006

Introduced by: Councilman ElijahJunaid

An ordinance for an Act entitled: "Mayoral Veto Override"

AN ACT to establish a procedure by which the City Council may override a mayoral veto of legislation. This Act clarifies the legislative process in the event of a veto and affirms the Council's authority to enact laws with a supermajority vote. It ensures checks and balances between the executive and legislative branches of city government.

Section 1 – General Provisions

a. Severability

- i. If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

b. Effective Date

- i. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its passage and ratification by the Mayor.

c. General Provisions

- i. All municipal legislation contradicting this bill and its contents is hereby null in void collectively.

d. Codified Reference

- i. This Act's codified reference shall be referred to as "D.C. Ordinance 29-0006"

Section 2 – Veto Override Procedure

- a. If the Mayor vetoes any ordinance passed by the City Council, the Council may reconsider the ordinance. Upon reconsideration, if two-thirds of all Council members vote in favor of the ordinance, the veto shall be overridden, and the ordinance shall take effect as if ratified by the Mayor.
- b. If two-thirds of all Council members are not available, the Council may postpone the override vote and reconsider the ordinance at the next best time. This reconsideration may occur up to one additional time, provided that the attempt is scheduled and publicly noticed in accordance with Section 4.
- c. The Clerk shall record the override vote and certify the ordinance as duly enacted if the required threshold is met.

Section 3 – Timing and Notification

- a. The Mayor shall return any vetoed ordinance to the Council within ten (10) calendar days of receipt. The Council shall schedule reconsideration of the vetoed ordinance no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after its return. The Clerk shall notify all Council members of the scheduled vote and ensure the ordinance is placed on the agenda.

Section 4 – Public Notice of Override Vote

- a. Any scheduled vote to override a mayoral veto shall be publicly noticed at least three (3) calendar days in advance.

Section 5 – Legal Review

- a. Any ordinance enacted through a veto override shall be subject to legal review to ensure compliance with the Charter and applicable laws. The City

Attorney shall issue a legal opinion within fourteen (14) calendar days of enactment.

Section 6 – Public Notification of Enactment

- a. If an ordinance is enacted through a veto override, the Clerk shall issue a public notice within five (5) calendar days of certification. The notice shall include the ordinance title, summary, and effective date.

– **END** –