



Legislative Summary

CA-1-26

Updating Requirements for Publication of the Charter and Code of the City of Annapolis

The City of Annapolis Office of Law created this summary for the use of Annapolis City Council members during their consideration of the legislation.

Bill Summary

CA-1-26 updates the portion of the City Charter instructing how the City's Code must be published.

Background

A city's Charter serves as the municipal equivalent of a constitution. It defines the structure of government, the official powers and responsibilities, and the operational rules.

"Ordinances" are the laws established by the City Council.

Together, these documents are referred to as "The Charter and Code of the City of Annapolis." The current version was first published in 1996, around the same time that online publishing began gaining traction. The focus shifted to "digital-first" policies in the 2000s.

According to the Pew Research Center, 86% of Americans primarily seek information from digital sources.

However, Article IX (9), Section 6 of the City Charter mandates that The Charter and Code of the City of Annapolis must be published on paper and made available as a book or a loose-leaf binder. Additionally, ordinances adopted by the City Council must be added to this publication as an annual supplement or, at a minimum, inserted into the binder.



DETAILS

CA-1-26 allows the Charter and Code of the City of Annapolis to be published online, making online publication an option alongside print publication.

Section 6.

- The entire section is rewritten, updated to current standards, and reformatted to the current legislative drafting style while maintaining The Code's numbering system.

Section 6(a)

- The term "Ordinance" is defined.
- All changes to the Charter or Code must comply with state law.
- Any amendments to the Charter that are approved by the Council and meet the other requirements outlined in the Charter must be incorporated into the Charter. Additionally, all ordinances and Charter amendments adopted by the Council must be included in the City Code.

Section 6(b)

- All amendments to the Charter and ordinances in the Code of the City of Annapolis must remain in the Charter and Code until they are changed or removed by the City Council.
- The Office of Law is responsible for ensuring that the Charter and Code of the City of Annapolis are kept up to date.
- Any publication, whether in print or electronic format, of the Charter and Code must include all current amendments and ordinances. Additionally, all printed copies need to be updated with supplements that contain legislation adopted by the City Council regularly throughout the year.