

BILL NO. 14 2014

AN ORDINANCE

I, LINDA A. KELLEHER, City Clerk of the City of Reading, Pa., do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original Ordinance passed by the Council of the City of Reading, on the 10 day of Feb A. D. 2014. Witness my hand and seal of the said City this 11 day of Feb A. D. 2014.
Linda A. Kelleher
CITY CLERK

AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE A REFERENDUM QUESTION BEFORE CITY VOTERS ON THE 2014 PRIMARY BALLOT WHICH WOULD AMEND THE CITY OF READING HOME RULE CHARTER TO REQUIRE APPOINTMENT OF A CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION AT LEAST EVERY FIVE (5) YEARS BUT NO SOONER THAN EVERY THREE (3) YEARS AND PROHIBIT CITY OFFICIALS OR EMPLOYEES FROM SERVING ON THE COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, Section 1203 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter provides for the review of the Home Rule Charter by an appointed Charter Review Commission; and

WHEREAS, Section 1203 currently provides that a Charter Review Commission shall be appointed at least every ten (10) years and that the majority of the eleven (11) member Charter Review Commission shall not be City officials or employees; and

WHEREAS, a duly appointed Charter Review Commission has recommended that said aforementioned Home Rule Charter section be amended as set forth in Exhibit A (attached hereto).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Directing the Berks County Board of Elections to place the following referendum question to voters of the City of Reading on the 2014 primary ballot unless space limitations require placing same to the voters on the 2014 general election ballot:

Home Rule Charter Section 1203 – Review of Charter

“Shall Section 1203 of the Reading City Charter be amended to: (1) require a Charter Review Commission be appointed at least every 5 years but no sooner than every 3 years; (2) prohibit City officials and employees from serving on the Commission in order to avoid conflict of interest; and (3) require City Council

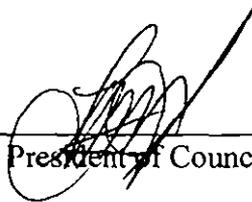
and the Mayor, by ordinance, to place all proposed amendments on the ballot no later than the next municipal election?"

Simple Explanation

The City of Reading Home Rule Charter currently mandates appointment of an eleven member Charter Review Commission, the majority of which may not be City officials or employees, at least every ten years. The amendment will require charter review at least every five years, but no sooner than three years by a Charter Review Commission with no members who are City officials or employees and also require Council and the Mayor place all proposed amendments on the ballot no later than the next municipal election.

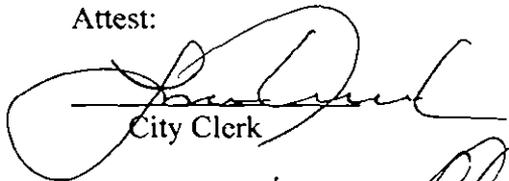
SECTION 2. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption, in accordance with Section 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted Feb 10, 2014



President of Council

Attest:



City Clerk

Submitted to Mayor: _____

Date: 2/11/14

Received by Mayor's Office: _____

Date: 2/11/14

Approved by Mayor: _____

Date: 2/11/14

Vetoed by Mayor: _____

Date: _____

Exhibit A

Section 1203. Review of Charter.

[At least every ten (10) years, except for the initial charter review which shall take place under this provision no sooner than five (5) years but no later than ten (10) years after the effective date of this Charter] At least every five (5) years, but no sooner than every three (3) years, City Council and the Mayor shall appoint a Charter Review Commission composed of eleven (11) members[, the majority of whom shall not be City officials or employees]. To avoid conflict of interest, no elected City official or employee shall serve on the Charter Review Commission. Nothing herein shall preclude such officials from attending or participating in the actions of the Commission. Seven (7) members of this Commission shall be appointed by City Council and four (4) members shall be appointed by the Mayor. All appointees shall be current residents and registered voters of the City. The Charter Review Commission shall review the current Charter, submit a report to the City Council, the mayor, and the citizens of the City, within six months of its appointment, and recommend any proposed amendments to the Charter. [All proposed amendments shall be placed] City Council and the Mayor, by ordinance, shall place all proposed amendments on the ballot no later than the next municipal election. City Council shall provide appropriations for the reasonable expenses incurred by the Charter Review Commission.