Legislation Text

File #: 250650, **Version:** 0

Providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia of anamendment to Article VIII, Chapter 5 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, entitled Referenda Approved by the Voters," by adding a new section providing that the citizens of Philadelphia call upon the Pennsylvania General Assembly to provide sustainable and consistent funding to mass transit throughout the Commonwealth, including to SEPTA; fixing the date of a special election for such purpose; prescribing the form of ballot question to be voted on; and authorizing the appropriate officers to publish notice and to make arrangements for the special election.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. There shall be submitted for the approval or disapproval of the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia at the election to be held November 4, 2025, an amendment to Article VIII, Chapter 5 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, entitled "Referenda Approved by the Voters," by adding a new section providing that the citizens of Philadelphia call upon the Pennsylvania General Assembly to provide sustainable and consistent funding to mass transit throughout the Commonwealth, including to SEPTA. The proposed amendment is contained in Resolution No. […], on file in the Office of the Clerk of Council.

SECTION 2. There shall be placed on the ballot the following question to be answered "Yes" or "No" by the qualified electors participating in the election:

> Shall The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to call upon the Pennsylvania General Assembly to provide sustainable and consistent funding to mass transit in Pennsylvania, including SEPTA, the beating heart of our City, without which tens of thousands of Philadelphians would be stranded, and commerce in Philadelphia would suffer irreparable damage?

SECTION 3. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to (i) certify to the Board of Elections, within five days of this Ordinance becoming law, a copy of this Ordinance and Resolution No. […]; and (ii) to have printed in pamphlet form, in sufficient number for general distribution, the proposed amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter as set forth in Resolution No. […], together with the ballot question set forth in Section 2 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to cause to be published one time, during the three (3) weeks preceding the election on November 4, 2025, in three (3) newspapers of general circulation in the City and in the Legal Intelligencer, the proposed amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, together with the ballot question set forth in Section 2 of this Ordinance, and further, at such other time and in such other manner as the Clerk may consider desirable.

SECTION 5. The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to issue a proclamation giving at least thirty (30) days' notice of such election. The Clerk of City Council shall cause a copy of the proclamation to be published in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the City of Philadelphia, and in The Legal Intelligencer once a week for three consecutive weeks during the period of thirty (30) days prior to the election. One such publication may be combined with the publication of the notice required by Section 4 of this Ordinance

SECTION 6. The appropriate officers are authorized and directed to take such action as may be required for the holding of an election on the ballot question set forth in Section 2 of this Ordinance as provided for by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.