

Wilmington, Delaware  
February 19, 2026

#xxxx

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington City Charter empowers Wilmington City Council to adopt

**Sponsor:**

emergency ordinances in order to meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or

**Council  
Member**

the public peace; and

**Owens**

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington City Council proposes to amend the Wilmington City Charter to require Wilmington City Council to make appropriations on an emergency basis from available sources of unappropriated revenues, grant funds or special funds.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that pursuant to Title 22, Section 811 of the Delaware Code, this Council proposes to amend Section 2-205 of the Wilmington City Charter by adding the underlined language and deleting the stricken language to read as follows:

**Sec. 2-205. Emergency Ordinances.**

To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or the public peace, the city council ~~may~~ shall adopt emergency ordinances, which shall include appropriations from any available source of revenues, grant funds or special funds, including funds being passed through to non-city entities, but such ordinances may not levy taxes, grant, renew or extend a franchise, or authorize the borrowing of money except to issue emergency notes as provided by law. An emergency ordinance shall be introduced in the form and manner prescribed for ordinances generally, except that it shall be plainly designated as an emergency ordinance and shall contain, after the enacting clause, a declaration stating that an emergency exists and describing it in clear and specific terms. An emergency ordinance may be adopted with or without amendment or rejected at the meeting at which it is introduced, but the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members shall be required for adoption. It shall become effective upon adoption or at such later time as it may specify. Every emergency ordinance except one made for the issuance of emergency notes shall automatically stand repealed as of the sixty-first day following the date on which it was adopted, but this shall not prevent reenactment of the ordinance in the manner specified in this section if the emergency still exists. An emergency ordinance may be repealed by adoption of a repealing ordinance in the same manner specified in this section for adoption of emergency ordinances.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution initiates a proposed amendment to Wilmington City Charter Section 2-205 to require City Council to make emergency appropriations from available revenues, grant funds or special funds in order to meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or other public peace.

DRAFT