

SENATE BILL 1

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
(PRE-FILED)

71r0371
CF 71r0377

By: **Senators Miller, Conway, Dyson, McFadden, Kasemeyer, Middleton, Currie, Frosh, Britt, DeGrange, Exum, Forehand, Garagiola, Gladden, Hogan, Jones, Kelley, Lenett, Madaleno, Peters, Pinsky, Pugh, Raskin, Robey, Rosapepe, and Stone**

Requested: September 12, 2006

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2007

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elective Franchise – Early Voting and Polling Places**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the General Assembly to provide by suitable
4 enactment a process to allow voters to vote at certain polling places in certain
5 locations and on certain days prior to certain election dates; making stylistic
6 changes; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of
7 Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution

9 Article I – Elective Franchise

10 Section 3

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, (Three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses
13 concurring), That it be proposed that the Maryland Constitution read as follows:

14 **Article I – Elective Franchise**

15 3.

16 (A) The General Assembly [of Maryland] shall have **THE** power to provide by
17 suitable enactment for voting by qualified voters of the State of Maryland who are

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 absent at the time of any election in which they are entitled to vote [and], for voting
2 by other qualified voters who are unable to vote personally, **OR FOR VOTING BY**
3 **QUALIFIED VOTERS WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE CHOOSE TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE**
4 **BALLOT**, and for the manner in which and the time and place at which such [absent]
5 voters may vote, and for the canvass and return of their votes.

6 **(B) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO PROVIDE BY**
7 **SUITABLE ENACTMENT A PROCESS TO ALLOW QUALIFIED VOTERS TO VOTE AT**
8 **POLLING PLACES IN OR OUTSIDE THEIR ELECTION DISTRICTS OR WARDS, AND**
9 **ON DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATES SPECIFIED IN THIS CONSTITUTION.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly
11 determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by this Act
12 affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the
13 Maryland Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not
14 apply.

15 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section
16 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the
17 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in
18 November, 2008 for their adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the
19 Maryland Constitution. At that general election, the vote on this proposed amendment
20 to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the
21 words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional
22 Amendment," as now provided by law. Immediately after the election, all returns shall
23 be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as
24 directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further proceedings had in
25 accordance with Article XIV.