

# HOUSE BILL 731

P5

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

8lr2313

---

By: **Delegates Fisher, Afzali, Cassilly, Corderman, Glass, Grammer, Kipke, Kittleman, Malone, McComas, McKay, W. Miller, Morgan, Reilly, Rey, Rose, Shoemaker, Szeliga, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2018

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly – Length of Session**

3 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to alter the  
4 limit on the number of days that the General Assembly may continue its session  
5 except under certain circumstances; altering the vote of the membership of each  
6 House of the General Assembly required to extend its session; and submitting this  
7 amendment to the qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution  
9 Article III – Legislative Department  
10 Section 15

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

14 **Article III – Legislative Department**

15 15.

16 (1) The General Assembly may continue its session so long as in its judgment the  
17 public interest may require, for a period not longer than [ninety] **SIXTY** days in each  
18 **EVEN-NUMBERED** year **AND FORTY-FIVE DAYS IN EACH ODD-NUMBERED YEAR**. The  
19 [ninety] days shall be consecutive unless otherwise provided by law. The General Assembly  
20 may extend its session [beyond ninety days], but not exceeding an additional thirty days,  
21 by resolution concurred in by a [three-fifths] **TWO-THIRDS** vote of the membership in each  
22 House. When the General Assembly is convened by Proclamation of the Governor, the  
23 session shall not continue longer than thirty days, but no additional compensation other

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 than mileage and other allowances provided by law shall be paid members of the General  
2 Assembly for special session.

3 (2) Any compensation and allowances paid to members of the General Assembly  
4 shall be as established by a commission known as the General Assembly Compensation  
5 Commission. The Commission shall consist of nine members, five of whom shall be  
6 appointed by the Governor, two of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate,  
7 and two of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates. Members of  
8 the General Assembly and officers and employees of the Government of the State of  
9 Maryland or of any county, city, or other governmental unit of the State shall not be eligible  
10 for appointment to the Commission. Members of the Commission shall be appointed for  
11 terms of four years commencing on June 1 of each gubernatorial election year. Members of  
12 the Commission are eligible for re-appointment. Any member of the Commission may be  
13 removed by the Governor prior to the expiration of his term for official misconduct,  
14 incompetence, or neglect of duty. The members shall serve without compensation but shall  
15 be reimbursed for expenses incurred in carrying out their responsibilities under this  
16 section. Decisions of the Commission must be concurred in by at least five members.

17 (3) Within 15 days after the beginning of the regular session of the General  
18 Assembly in 1974 and within 15 days after the beginning of the regular session in each  
19 fourth year thereafter, the Commission by formal resolution shall submit its  
20 determinations for compensation and allowances to the General Assembly. The General  
21 Assembly may reduce or reject, but shall not increase any item in the resolution. The  
22 resolution, with any reductions that shall have been concurred in by joint resolution of the  
23 General Assembly, shall take effect and have the force of law as of the beginning of the  
24 term of office of the next General Assembly. Rates of compensation and pensions shall be  
25 uniform for all members of the General Assembly, except that the officers of the Senate and  
26 the House of Delegates may receive higher compensation as determined by the General  
27 Assembly Compensation Commission. The provisions of the Compensation Commission  
28 resolution shall continue in force until superseded by any succeeding resolution.

29 (4) In no event shall the compensation and allowances be less than they were  
30 prior to the establishment of the Compensation Commission.

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

35 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the  
36 Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified  
37 voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2018 for adoption or  
38 rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election,  
39 the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on each  
40 ballot there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against  
41 the Constitutional Amendment", as now provided by law. Immediately after the election,  
42 all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed

1 amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further  
2 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.