HOUSE BILL 1031

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT


Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Declaration of Rights – Right of Bodily Integrity and Privacy

FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to establish that the people have the right to bodily integrity and privacy to make personal decisions about childbearing and procreation without unwarranted government intrusion; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection.

BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution

Declaration of Rights

Article 48

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

Declaration of Rights

ARTICLE 48.

That the people have the right to bodily integrity and privacy to make personal decisions about childbearing and procreation without unwarranted government intrusion.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly
determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this
Act affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the Maryland
Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not apply.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the
Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified
voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2020 for adoption or
rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election,
the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on each
ballot there shall be printed the words “For the Constitutional Amendment” and “Against
the Constitutional Amendment”, as now provided by law. Immediately after the election,
all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed
amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further
proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.