

SENATE BILL 6

G1, P5

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
(PRE-FILED)

11r0435
CF HB 265

By: **Senators Lam and Hough**

Requested: July 10, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 11, 2021

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly – Special Election to Fill a Vacancy in Office**

3 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to require an
4 individual appointed by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the office of Delegate or
5 Senator in the General Assembly to serve for the remainder of the term if the vacancy
6 occurs after a certain date; requiring that a special election be held at the same time
7 as a certain regular statewide election to fill a vacancy in the office of Delegate or
8 Senator in the General Assembly if the vacancy occurs on or before a certain date;
9 providing that a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of Delegate or Senator
10 in the General Assembly is not subject to a requirement that elections for State and
11 county officers occur on certain dates; making conforming changes; and submitting
12 this amendment to the qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection.

13 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution
14 Article III – Legislative Department
15 Section 13

16 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution
17 Article XVII – Quadrennial Elections
18 Section 2

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Article III – Legislative Department

1

2 13.

3 (a) (1) In case of death, disqualification, resignation, refusal to act, expulsion,
4 or removal from the county or city for which he shall have been elected, of any person who
5 shall have been chosen as a Delegate or Senator, or in case of a tie between two or more
6 such qualified persons, the Governor shall appoint a person to fill such vacancy from a
7 person whose name shall be submitted to him in writing, within thirty days after the
8 occurrence of the vacancy, by the Central Committee of the political party, if any, with
9 which the Delegate or Senator, so vacating, had been affiliated, at the time of the last
10 election or appointment of the vacating Senator or Delegate, in the County or District from
11 which he or she was appointed or elected, provided that the appointee shall be of the same
12 political party, if any, as was that of the Delegate or Senator, whose office is to be filled, at
13 the time of the last election or appointment of the vacating Delegate or Senator, and it shall
14 be the duty of the Governor to make said appointment within fifteen days after the
15 submission thereof to him.

16 (2) If a name is not submitted by the Central Committee within thirty days
17 after the occurrence of the vacancy, the Governor within another period of fifteen days shall
18 appoint a person, who shall be affiliated with the same political party, if any as was that of
19 the Delegate or Senator, whose office is to be filled, at the time of the last election or
20 appointment of the vacating Delegate or Senator, and who is otherwise properly qualified
21 to hold the office of Delegate or Senator in the District or County.

22 (3) In the event there is no Central Committee in the County or District
23 from which said vacancy is to be filled, the Governor shall within fifteen days after the
24 occurrence of such vacancy appoint a person, from the same political party, if any, as that
25 of the vacating Delegate or Senator, at the time of the last election or appointment of the
26 vacating Senator or Delegate, who is otherwise properly qualified to hold the office of
27 Delegate or Senator in such District or County.

28 [(4) In every case when any person is so appointed by the Governor, his
29 appointment shall be deemed to be for the unexpired term of the person whose office has
30 become vacant.]

31 (b) In addition, and in submitting a name to the Governor to fill a vacancy in a
32 Legislative or Delegate district, as the case may be, in any of the twenty–three counties of
33 Maryland, the Central Committee or committees shall follow these provisions:

34 (1) If the vacancy occurs in a district having the same boundaries as a
35 county, the Central Committee of the county shall submit the name of a resident of the
36 district.

37 (2) If the vacancy occurs in a district which has boundaries comprising a
38 portion of one county, the Central Committee of that county shall submit the name of a

1 resident of the district.

2 (3) If the vacancy occurs in a district which has boundaries comprising a
3 portion or all of two or more counties, the Central Committee of each county involved shall
4 have one vote for submitting the name of a resident of the district; and if there is a tie vote
5 between or among the Central Committees, the list of names there proposed shall be
6 submitted to the Governor, and he shall make the appointment from the list.

7 (c) (1) **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**
8 **AN INDIVIDUAL APPOINTED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SERVE UNTIL A**
9 **SUCCESSOR IS ELECTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO FILL THE**
10 **REMAINDER OF THE TERM.**

11 (2) **AN INDIVIDUAL APPOINTED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SERVE**
12 **FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM IF THE VACANCY OCCURS AFTER THE DATE THAT**
13 **IS 55 DAYS BEFORE THE DEADLINE FOR FILING CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY FOR**
14 **THE REGULAR STATEWIDE ELECTION THAT IS HELD IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE**
15 **TERM.**

16 (3) **IF THE VACANCY OCCURS ON OR BEFORE THE DATE THAT IS 55**
17 **DAYS BEFORE THE DEADLINE FOR FILING CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY FOR THE**
18 **REGULAR STATEWIDE ELECTION THAT IS HELD IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE TERM,**
19 **THE GOVERNOR SHALL ISSUE A PROCLAMATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE**
20 **OCCURRENCE OF THE VACANCY DECLARING THAT A SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**
21 **AND A SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION SHALL BE HELD AT THE SAME TIME AS THE**
22 **REGULAR STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION AND REGULAR STATEWIDE GENERAL**
23 **ELECTION THAT ARE HELD IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE TERM.**

24 Article XVII – Quadrennial Elections

25 2.

26 [Except for a special election that may be authorized to fill a vacancy in a County
27 Council or a vacancy in the office of chief executive officer or County Executive, under
28 Article XI–A, Section 3 of the Constitution,]

29 (A) **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION,** elections by
30 qualified voters for State and county officers shall be held on the Tuesday next after the
31 first Monday of November, in the year nineteen hundred and twenty–six, and on the same
32 day in every fourth year thereafter.

33 (B) **THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A SPECIAL ELECTION:**

34 (1) **TO FILL A VACANCY IN A COUNTY COUNCIL OR A VACANCY IN THE**
35 **OFFICE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OR COUNTY EXECUTIVE UNDER ARTICLE**

1 **XI-A, § 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION; OR**

2 **(2) TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF DELEGATE OR SENATOR IN**
3 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER ARTICLE III, § 13(C) OF THE CONSTITUTION.**

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

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the
9 Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified
10 voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2022 for adoption or
11 rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election,
12 the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on each
13 ballot there shall be printed the words “For the Constitutional Amendment” and “Against
14 the Constitutional Amendment”, as now provided by law. Immediately after the election,
15 all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed
16 amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further
17 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.