

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

By: Delegate Weir

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Legislative Districting - Delegate Districts**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that, unless otherwise provided by law, to the extent
4 practicable each legislative district shall be contained wholly within a county;
5 requiring the subdivision of a legislative district to include a single-member
6 delegate district under certain circumstances; generally relating to legislative
7 districting; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of
8 Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

9 BY proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland

10 Article III - Legislative Department

11 Section 3

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

15 **Article III - Legislative Department**

16 3.

17 (A) (1) The State shall be divided by law into legislative districts for the election
18 of members of the Senate and the House of Delegates. Each legislative district shall
19 contain one (1) Senator and three (3) Delegates.

20 (2) [Nothing herein shall prohibit the subdivision of any one] UNLESS
21 OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, AND TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, EACH
22 LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT SHALL BE CONTAINED WHOLLY WITHIN A COUNTY, AND
23 ONE or more of the legislative districts MAY BE SUBDIVIDED for the purpose of electing
24 members of the House of Delegates into three (3) single-member delegate districts or
25 one (1) single-member delegate district and one (1) multi-member delegate district.

26 (B) (1) IF A LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IS CONFIGURED SO THAT THE
27 MAJORITY OF ITS POPULATION RESIDES IN ONE COUNTY AND THE REMAINING
28 PORTION OF ITS POPULATION RESIDES IN ANOTHER COUNTY, THE LEGISLATIVE
29 DISTRICT SHALL BE SUBDIVIDED INTO DELEGATE DISTRICTS SO THAT THE LESSER
30 POPULATION IS CONTAINED WITHIN A SINGLE-MEMBER DELEGATE DISTRICT.

1 (2) A SINGLE-MEMBER DELEGATE DISTRICT, CREATED TO MEET THE
2 REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, MAY CONTAIN
3 POPULATION FROM BOTH COUNTIES IN ORDER TO MEET EQUAL POPULATION
4 STANDARDS.

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

9 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section
10 proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland shall be submitted to the
11 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in
12 November, 1998 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in
13 Article XIV of the Constitution of this State. At that general election, the vote on this
14 proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there
15 shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendments" and "Against the
16 Constitutional Amendments," as now provided by law. Immediately after the election, all
17 returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed
18 amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Constitution, and further proceedings had
19 in accordance with Article XIV.