

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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CF 7lr1333

By: Senators Ruben, Miller, and Forehand

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Charter Counties - Proposed Charter Amendments - Number of Petition Signatures

3 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland to
4 authorize Baltimore City and certain counties that adopt charters to modify,
5 through charter amendment, the number of signatures required for certain petitions
6 proposing charter amendments; and submitting this amendment to the qualified
7 voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland
9 Article XI-A - Local Legislation
10 Section 5

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 Constitution of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article XI-A - Local Legislation**

15 5.

16 (A) Amendments to any charter adopted by the City of Baltimore or by any
17 County of this State under the provisions of this Article may be proposed by:

18 (1) [a] A resolution of the Mayor of Baltimore and the City Council of the
19 City of Baltimore, or the Council of the County[, or by]; OR

20 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, a
21 petition FILED WITH THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE OR THE PRESIDENT
22 OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL THAT IS signed by not less than 20% of the registered voters
23 of the City or County, provided, however, that in any case 10,000 signatures shall be
24 sufficient to complete a petition[. A petition shall be filed with the Mayor of Baltimore or
25 the President of the County Council].

26 (B) THE CITY OF BALTIMORE OR ANY COUNTY THAT HAS ADOPTED A
27 CHARTER UNDER THIS ARTICLE MAY MODIFY, BY CHARTER AMENDMENT, THE
28 NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES REQUIRED TO PROPOSE A CHARTER
29 AMENDMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION TO ANY NUMBER NOT TO
30 EXCEED 20% OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE CITY OR COUNTY BUT NOT LESS
31 THAN 10,000 SIGNATURES OF THOSE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE CITY OR COUNTY.

1 (C) An amendment so proposed shall be submitted to the voters of the City or
2 County at the next general or congressional election occurring after the passage of the
3 resolution or the filing of the petition. If at the election the majority of the votes cast for
4 and against the amendment shall be in favor thereof, the amendment shall be adopted
5 and become a part of the charter of the City or County from and after the thirtieth day
6 after said election. The amendments shall be published by the Mayor of Baltimore or
7 President of the County Council once a week for five successive weeks prior to the
8 election in at least one newspaper published in said City or County.

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

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