HOUSE BILL 125CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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By: Delegates Arnick and Getty (Commission to Revise the Election Code) Introduced and read first time: January 16, 1998 Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters Committee Report: Favorable House action: Adopted Read second time: February 25, 1998	
1 A	N ACT concerning
2 3	Election Law - Publication Requirements - Constitutional Amendments and Referenda
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	OR the purpose of eliminating specific publication requirements for certain bills proposing amendments to the Maryland Constitution and certain referendum; providing that publication requirements shall be provided for by law; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection. BY proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland Article XIV - Amendments to the Constitution Section 1 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 Constitution of Maryland read as follows:
15	Article XIV - Amendments to the Constitution
16	l.
19 S 20 n 21 J 22 a	The General Assembly may propose Amendments to this Constitution; provided hat each Amendment shall be embraced in a separate bill, embodying the Article or Section, as the same will stand when amended and passed by three-fifths of all the nembers elected to each of the two Houses, by yeas and nays, to be entered on the fournals with the proposed Amendment. The requirement in this section that an unendment proposed by the General Assembly shall be embraced in a separate bill shall not be construed or applied to prevent the General Assembly from (1) proposing

- 1 in one bill a series of amendments to the Constitution of Maryland for the general
- 2 purpose of removing or correcting constitutional provisions which are obsolete,
- 3 inaccurate, invalid, unconstitutional, or duplicative; or (2) embodying in a single
- 4 Constitutional amendment one or more Articles of the Constitution so long as that
- 5 Constitutional amendment embraces only a single subject. The bill or bills proposing
- 6 amendment or amendments shall be publicized[, either by publishing,] by order of
- 7 the Governor, [in at least two newspapers, in each County, where so many may be
- B published, and where not more than one may be published, then in that newspaper,
- 9 and in three newspapers published in the City of Baltimore, once a week for four
- 10 weeks, or as otherwise ordered by the Governor] in a manner provided by law,
- 11 immediately preceding the next ensuing general election, at which the proposed
- 12 amendment or amendments shall be submitted, in a form to be prescribed by the
- 13 General Assembly, to the qualified voters of the State for adoption or rejection. The
- 14 votes cast for and against said proposed amendment or amendments, severally, shall
- 15 be returned to the Governor, in the manner prescribed in other cases, and if it shall
- 16 appear to the Governor that a majority of the votes cast at said election on said
- 17 amendment or amendments, severally, were cast in favor thereof, the Governor shall,
- 18 by his proclamation, declare the said amendment or amendments having received
- 19 said majority of votes, to have been adopted by the people of Maryland as part of the
- 20 Constitution thereof, and thenceforth said amendment or amendments shall be part
- 21 of the said Constitution. If the General Assembly determines that a proposed
- 22 Constitutional amendment affects only one county or the City of Baltimore, the
- 23 proposed amendment shall be part of the Constitution if it receives a majority of the
- 24 votes cast in the State and in the affected County or City of Baltimore, as the case
- 25 may be. When two or more amendments shall be submitted to the voters of this State
- 26 at the same election, they shall be so submitted as that each amendment shall be
- 27 voted on separately.
- 28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly
- 29 determines that the amendment to the Constitution of Maryland proposed by this Act
- 30 affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, Section 1 of the
- 31 Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not apply.
- 32 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the aforegoing section
- 33 proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland shall be submitted to the
- 34 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in
- 35 November, 1998 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in
- 36 Article XIV of the Constitution of this State. At that general election, the vote on this
- 37 proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot
- 38 there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendments" and "Against
- 39 the Constitutional Amendments," as now provided by law. Immediately after the
- 40 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the
- 11 proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Constitution, and further
- 42 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.