

**HOUSE BILL 192**  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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1998 Regular Session  
8r0895

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By: **Delegates Vallario, Arnick, E. Burns, Dembrow, Gordon, Montague,  
Opara, Palumbo, Poole, Turner, and Valderrama**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 1998

Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 19, 1998

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

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**Jury Trials - Civil Proceedings**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that the right to a jury trial in civil proceedings  
4 preserved by Article 23 of the Declaration of Rights applies when the amount in  
5 controversy exceeds \$10,000; and submitting this amendment to the qualified  
6 voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

7 BY proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland

8 Declaration of Rights

9 Article 23

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

13 style="text-align:center">**Declaration of Rights**

14 Article 23.

15 In the trial of all criminal cases, the Jury shall be the Judges of Law, as well as  
16 of fact, except that the Court may pass upon the sufficiency of the evidence to sustain  
17 a conviction.

18 The right of trial by Jury of all issues of fact in civil proceedings in the several  
19 Courts of Law in this State, where the amount in controversy exceeds the sum of [five  
20 thousand dollars] \$10,000, shall be inviolably preserved.

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

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