
By: **Delegates Curran, DeCarlo, Dypski, Kagan, Malone, Mandel, Minnick,
and Rudolph**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1998
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fire Departments - Privatization - Referendum Required**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a county or municipal corporation to submit to a
4 referendum of the voters of the county or municipal corporation any enactment
5 to privatize fire, emergency medical, paramedic, or rescue services; requiring
6 the governing body and the appropriate election board or municipal election
7 official to do those things necessary to carry out the referendum; and generally
8 relating to the privatization of fire, emergency medical, paramedic, or rescue
9 services.

10 BY adding to
11 Article 38A - Fires and Investigations
12 Section 68
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article 38A - Fires and Investigations**

18 68.

19 (A) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A COUNTY OR
20 MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY NOT PRIVATIZE FIRE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL,
21 PARAMEDIC, OR RESCUE SERVICE UNLESS AN ENACTMENT PRIVATIZING THE
22 SERVICES HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS OF THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL
23 CORPORATION AT A REFERENDUM HELD AT A GENERAL OR SPECIAL ELECTION.

24 (B) (1) THE COST OF THE REFERENDUM, IF ANY, SHALL BE PAID BY THE
25 GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

1 (2) THE GOVERNING BODY AND THE APPROPRIATE BOARD OF
2 SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS OR MUNICIPAL ELECTION OFFICIAL SHALL DO THOSE
3 THINGS NECESSARY AND PROPER TO PROVIDE FOR AND HOLD THE REFERENDUM.

4 (3) IF A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST ON THE QUESTION ARE "FOR
5 THE REFERRED LAW", THE ENACTMENT MAY BECOME EFFECTIVE ON THE DATE
6 SPECIFIED IN THE ENACTMENT, BUT IF A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST ON THE
7 QUESTION ARE "AGAINST THE REFERRED LAW", THE PROVISIONS OF THE
8 ENACTMENT ARE OF NO EFFECT AND NULL AND VOID.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 July 1, 1998.