

HOUSE BILL 348
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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1998 Regular Session
8r1445
CF 8r1306

By: **Delegates Goldwater, Kopp, Hurson, Kagan, Grosfeld, Petzold, Barve,
Billings, Mandel, Shriver, Conroy, Hubbard, Pitkin, Exum, and R. Baker**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1998

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Universal Health Care Coverage Plan**

3 FOR the purpose of amending the Constitution of Maryland to establish health care
4 as a fundamental right of every citizen of the State; requiring the General
5 Assembly to enact a universal health care coverage plan for all State citizens;
6 and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland
7 for their adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing an addition to the Constitution of Maryland
9 Declaration of Rights
10 Article 48

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 **Declaration of Rights**

15 ARTICLE 48.

16 (A) HEALTH CARE IS AN ESSENTIAL SAFEGUARD OF QUALITY OF LIFE AND
17 DIGNITY, AND THERE IS AN OBLIGATION FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND TO ENSURE
18 THAT EVERY CITIZEN IS ABLE TO REALIZE THIS FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT.

19 (B) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2002, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY LAW SHALL
20 ENACT A PLAN FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE THAT ALLOWS EVERYONE
21 IN MARYLAND TO OBTAIN DECENT HEALTH CARE ON A REGULAR BASIS.

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

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section
27 proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland shall be submitted to the

1 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in
2 November, 1998 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in
3 Article XIV of the Constitution of this State. At that general election, the vote on this
4 proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot
5 there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendments" and "Against
6 the Constitutional Amendments," as now provided by law. Immediately after the
7 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the
8 proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Constitution, and further
9 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.