

**HOUSE BILL 448**  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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P5

1998 Regular Session  
8r1736

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By: **Delegate Edwards**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 1998

Assigned to: Appropriations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly Compensation Commission - Membership -**  
3 **Constitutional Amendment**

4 FOR the purpose of modifying the composition of and appointment process for the  
5 General Assembly Compensation Commission; naming organizations that are to  
6 have representatives on the Commission; requiring the Commission to select a  
7 chairman from among its members; providing for staff support to the  
8 Commission; generally relating to the appointment process, membership, and  
9 operation of the General Assembly Compensation Commission; and submitting  
10 this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their  
11 adoption or rejection.

12 BY proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland  
13 Article III - Legislative Department  
14 Section 15(2)

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

18 **Article III - Legislative Department**

19 15.

20 (2) Any compensation and allowances paid to members of the General  
21 Assembly shall be as established by a commission known as the General Assembly  
22 Compensation Commission. The Commission shall consist of [nine] SEVEN  
23 members[, five of whom shall be] appointed by the Governor[, two of whom shall be  
24 appointed by the President of the Senate, and two of whom shall be appointed by the  
25 Speaker of the House of Delegates]. THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF  
26 INDIVIDUALS RECOMMENDED TO THE GOVERNOR FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING  
27 ORGANIZATIONS: (1) AMERICAN LEGION OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND; (2) MARYLAND  
28 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; (3) MARYLAND FARM BUREAU, INC.; (4) MARYLAND  
29 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS; (5) MARYLAND PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION; (6)  
30 MARYLAND STATE AND DC AFL-CIO; AND (7) MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S  
31 ASSOCIATION. Members of the General Assembly and officers and employees of the

1 Government of the State of Maryland or of any county, city, or other governmental  
2 unit of the State shall not be eligible for appointment to the Commission. Members of  
3 the Commission shall be appointed for terms of four years commencing on June 1 of  
4 each gubernatorial election year. ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1 OF THAT YEAR, THE  
5 GOVERNOR SHALL REQUEST EACH ORGANIZATION TO RECOMMEND ONE  
6 INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMISSION. Members of the Commission  
7 are eligible for re-appointment. Any member of the Commission may be removed by  
8 the Governor prior to the expiration of his term for official misconduct, incompetence,  
9 or neglect of duty. IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY ON THE COMMISSION, THE  
10 GOVERNOR SHALL REQUEST THAT THE APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATION RECOMMEND  
11 ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL TO BE APPOINTED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM. The  
12 members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses  
13 incurred in carrying out their responsibilities under this section. THE COMMISSION  
14 SHALL SELECT FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS ONE INDIVIDUAL TO SERVE AS  
15 CHAIRMAN. THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE  
16 NECESSARY STAFF SUPPORT TO THE COMMISSION. Decisions of the Commission  
17 must be concurred in by at least [five] FOUR members.

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

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