

HOUSE BILL 536
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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P5
HB 859/97 - CGM

1998 Regular Session
8r1594

By: **Delegate Weir**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1998

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Legislative Districting - Districts and Subdistricts**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that, unless otherwise provided by law, to the extent
4 practicable each legislative district shall be contained wholly within a county;
5 requiring the subdivision of a legislative district to include a single-member
6 delegate district under certain circumstances; generally relating to legislative
7 districting; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State
8 of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

9 BY proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland
10 Article III - Legislative Department
11 Section 3

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

15 **Article III - Legislative Department**

16 3.

17 (A) (1) The State shall be divided by law into legislative districts for the
18 election of members of the Senate and the House of Delegates. Each legislative
19 district shall contain one (1) Senator and three (3) Delegates.

20 (2) [Nothing herein shall prohibit the subdivision of any one] UNLESS
21 OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, AND TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, EACH
22 LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT SHALL BE CONTAINED WHOLLY WITHIN A COUNTY, AND ONE
23 or more of the legislative districts MAY BE SUBDIVIDED for the purpose of electing
24 members of the House of Delegates into three (3) single-member delegate districts or
25 one (1) single-member delegate district and one (1) multi-member delegate district.

26 (B) (1) IF A LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IS CONFIGURED SO THAT THE MAJORITY
27 OF ITS POPULATION RESIDES IN ONE COUNTY AND THE REMAINING PORTION OF ITS
28 POPULATION RESIDES IN ANOTHER COUNTY, THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT SHALL BE

1 SUBDIVIDED INTO DELEGATE DISTRICTS SO THAT THE LESSER POPULATION IS
2 CONTAINED WITHIN A SINGLE-MEMBER DELEGATE DISTRICT.

3 (2) A SINGLE-MEMBER DELEGATE DISTRICT, CREATED TO MEET THE
4 REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, MAY CONTAIN
5 POPULATION FROM BOTH COUNTIES IN ORDER TO MEET EQUAL POPULATION
6 STANDARDS.

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

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