

**HOUSE BILL 1156**  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Unofficial Copy  
P5

1998 Regular Session  
8lr2537

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By: **Delegate Hixson**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 1998

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Constitutional Amendment - General Assembly - Duration of Session**

3 FOR the purpose of eliminating the 90-day limitation on General Assembly Sessions;  
4 eliminating the 30-day extension of General Assembly Sessions by a certain  
5 vote of the membership; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters  
6 of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

7 BY proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland  
8 Article III - Legislative Department  
9 Section 15(1)

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 **Article III - Legislative Department**

14 15.

15 (1) The General Assembly may continue its session so long as in its judgment  
16 the public interest may require[, for a period not longer than ninety days in each  
17 year. The ninety days shall be consecutive unless otherwise provided by law. The  
18 General Assembly may extend its session beyond ninety days, but not exceeding an  
19 additional thirty days, by resolution concurred in by a three-fifths vote of the  
20 membership in each House]. When the General Assembly is convened by  
21 Proclamation of the Governor, the session shall not continue longer than thirty days,  
22 but no additional compensation other than mileage and other allowances provided by  
23 law shall be paid members of the General Assembly for special session.

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

28 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section  
29 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.