

SENATE BILL 331
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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1999 Regular Session
9lr0686

By: **Senators Miller, McFadden, Blount, and Hoffman**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Quadrennial Elections - Baltimore City Elections**

3 FOR the purpose of amending the Constitution of Maryland to provide that the
4 election for officers in the City of Baltimore be held at the same time as all State
5 and county elections; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of
6 the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

7 BY proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland
8 Article XVII - Quadrennial Elections
9 Section 1, 2, and 3

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 XVII - Quadrennial Elections**

14 1.

15 The purpose of this Article is to reduce the number of elections by providing that
16 all State and county elections AND ALL ELECTIONS FOR THE CITY OF BALTIMORE
17 shall be held only in every fourth year, and at the time provided by law for holding
18 congressional elections, and to bring the terms of appointive officers into harmony
19 with the changes effected in the time of the beginning of the terms of elective officers.
20 The administrative and judicial officers of the State shall construe the provisions of
21 this Article so as to effectuate that purpose. For the purpose of this Article only the
22 word "officers" shall be construed to include those holding positions and other places
23 of employment in the [state] STATE and county governments AND THE
24 GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE whose terms are fixed by law, but it shall
25 not include any appointments made by the Board of Public Works, nor appointments
26 by the Governor for terms of three years.

27 2.

28 Except for a special election that may be authorized to fill a vacancy in a County
29 Council under Article XI-A, Section 3 of the Constitution, elections by qualified voters

1 for State and county officers AND FOR OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE shall be
2 held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, in the year nineteen
3 hundred and twenty-six, and on the same day in every fourth year thereafter.

4 3.

5 All State, CITY OF BALTIMORE, and county officers elected by qualified voters
6 (except judges of the Circuit Courts, judges of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City,
7 judges of the Court of Appeals and judges of any intermediate courts of appeal) shall
8 hold office for terms of four years, and until their successors shall qualify.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That each officer in the City
10 of Baltimore governed by this Act who is elected by the qualified voters in the City of
11 Baltimore at the election held on November 2, 1999, and any individual who is
12 appointed to fill a vacancy in such office, shall hold office for a term of 3 years,
13 pending the outcome of the general election in November 2002. Thereafter, each
14 officer in the City of Baltimore who is governed by this Act and who is elected by the
15 qualified voters of the City of Baltimore shall hold office for a term of 4 years.

16 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly
17 determines that the amendment to the Constitution of Maryland proposed by this Act
18 affects the City of Baltimore and that the provisions of Article XIV, Section 1 of the
19 Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments apply.

20 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section
21 proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland shall be submitted to the
22 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in
23 November, 2000 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in
24 Article XIV of the Constitution of this State. At that general election, the vote on this
25 proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot
26 there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendments" and "Against
27 the Constitutional Amendments," as now provided by law. Immediately after the
28 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the
29 proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Constitution, and further
30 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.