

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 23, 1999

CHAPTER _____

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; providing certain provisions of limited duration for the
6 purpose of implementing the provisions of these Amendments; and submitting
7 this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their
8 adoption or rejection.

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

12 BY proposing an addition to the Constitution of Maryland
13 Article XVIII - Provisions of Limited Duration
14 Section 6

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 XVII - Quadrennial Elections**

19 1.

20 The purpose of this Article is to reduce the number of elections by providing that
21 all State and county elections AND ALL ELECTIONS FOR THE CITY OF BALTIMORE
22 shall be held only in every fourth year, and at the time provided by law for holding

1 congressional elections, and to bring the terms of appointive officers into harmony
 2 with the changes effected in the time of the beginning of the terms of elective officers.
 3 The administrative and judicial officers of the State shall construe the provisions of
 4 this Article so as to effectuate that purpose. For the purpose of this Article only the
 5 word "officers" shall be construed to include those holding positions and other places
 6 of employment in the [state] STATE and county governments AND THE
 7 GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE whose terms are fixed by law, but it shall
 8 not include any appointments made by the Board of Public Works, nor appointments
 9 by the Governor for terms of three years.

10 2.

11 Except for a special election that may be authorized to fill a vacancy in a County
 12 Council under Article XI-A, Section 3 of the Constitution, elections by qualified voters
 13 for State and county officers AND FOR OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE shall be
 14 held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, in the year nineteen
 15 hundred and twenty-six, and on the same day in every fourth year thereafter.

16 3.

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

21 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That each officer in the City~~
 22 ~~of Baltimore governed by this Act who is elected by the qualified voters in the City of~~
 23 ~~Baltimore at the election held on November 2, 1999, and any individual who is~~
 24 ~~appointed to fill a vacancy in such office, shall hold office for a term of 3 years,~~
 25 ~~pending the outcome of the general election in November 2002. Thereafter, each~~
 26 ~~officer in the City of Baltimore who is governed by this Act and who is elected by the~~
 27 ~~qualified voters of the City of Baltimore shall hold office for a term of 4 years.~~

28

Article XVIII - Provisions of Limited Duration

29 6.

30 FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY
 31 SENATE BILL 331 OF 1999, EACH OFFICER IN THE CITY OF BALTIMORE GOVERNED BY
 32 SENATE BILL 331 OF 1999 WHO IS ELECTED BY THE QUALIFIED VOTERS IN THE CITY
 33 OF BALTIMORE AT THE ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 2, 1999, AND ANY INDIVIDUAL
 34 WHO IS APPOINTED TO FILL A VACANCY IN SUCH OFFICE, SHALL HOLD OFFICE FOR
 35 A TERM OF 3 YEARS, PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE GENERAL ELECTION IN
 36 NOVEMBER 2002. THEREAFTER, EACH OFFICER IN THE CITY OF BALTIMORE WHO IS
 37 GOVERNED BY SENATE BILL 331 OF 1999 AND WHO IS ELECTED BY THE QUALIFIED
 38 VOTERS OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE SHALL HOLD OFFICE FOR A TERM OF 4 YEARS.

39 SECTION 3. 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General
 40 Assembly determines that the amendment to the Constitution of Maryland proposed

1 by this Act affects the City of Baltimore and that the provisions of Article XIV, Section
2 1 of the Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments apply.

3 SECTION 4. ~~3.~~ AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing
4 section proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland shall be
5 submitted to the legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to
6 be held in November, 2000 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions
7 contained in Article XIV of the Constitution of this State. At that general election, the
8 vote on this proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon
9 each ballot there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendments"
10 and "Against the Constitutional Amendments," as now provided by law. Immediately
11 after the election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and
12 against the proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Constitution, and
13 further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.