

**SENATE BILL 510**  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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1999 Regular Session  
9r1853

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By: **Senator Baker**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Cecil County - Election and Terms of Office for County Officers**

3 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland to  
4 exclude certain county officers of Cecil County from certain requirements that  
5 county elections be conducted on a certain quadrennial basis and that certain  
6 terms of office of certain county officers and certain officers appointed by County  
7 Commissioners be for a certain term; submitting this amendment to the  
8 qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection; and  
9 generally relating to certain requirements for quadrennial elections and certain  
10 terms of office of certain county officers of Cecil County.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendment sections of the Constitution of  
12 Maryland  
13 Article XVII - Quadrennial Elections  
14 Section 1, 2, 3, and 5

15 BY proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland  
16 Article XVII - Quadrennial Elections  
17 Section 7

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

21 **Article XVII - Quadrennial Elections**

22 1.

23 The purpose of this Article is to reduce the number of elections by providing that  
24 all State and county elections shall be held only in every fourth year, and at the time  
25 provided by law for holding congressional elections, and to bring the terms of  
26 appointive officers into harmony with the changes effected in the time of the  
27 beginning of the terms of elective officers. The administrative and judicial officers of  
28 the State shall construe the provisions of this Article so as to effectuate that purpose.  
29 For the purpose of this Article only the word "officers" shall be construed to include

1 those holding positions and other places of employment in the state and county  
2 governments whose terms are fixed by law, but it shall not include any appointments  
3 made by the Board of Public Works, nor appointments by the Governor for terms of  
4 three years.

5 2.

6 Except for a special election that may be authorized to fill a vacancy in a County  
7 Council under Article XI-A, Section 3 of the Constitution, elections by qualified voters  
8 for State and county officers shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday  
9 of November, in the year nineteen hundred and twenty-six, and on the same day in  
10 every fourth year thereafter.

11 3.

12 All State and county officers elected by qualified voters (except judges of the  
13 Circuit Courts, judges of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, judges of the Court of  
14 Appeals and judges of any intermediate courts of appeal) shall hold office for terms of  
15 four years, and until their successors shall qualify.

16 5.

17 All officers to be appointed by the Governor shall hold office for the terms fixed  
18 by law. All officers appointed by County Commissioners shall hold office for terms of  
19 four years, unless otherwise duly changed by law.

20 7.

21 Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5 of this Article do not apply or refer to:

22 (1) members of any elective local board of education; OR

23 (2) COUNTY OFFICERS OF CECIL COUNTY.

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 only one county and that the provisions of Article XIV, Section 1 of the  
27 Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments 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  
30 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in  
31 November, 2000 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in  
32 Article XIV of the Constitution of this State. At that general election, the vote on this  
33 proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot  
34 there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendments" and "Against  
35 the Constitutional Amendments," as now provided by law. Immediately after the  
36 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the  
37 proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Constitution, and further  
38 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.

