

SENATE BILL 904
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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P5

2000 Regular Session
0lr3111
CF 0lr3110

By: **Senators Miller, Blount, Baker, Bromwell, Hoffman, and Madden**
Constitutional Requirements Complied with for Introduction in the last 35 Days of
Session
Introduced and read first time: March 21, 2000
Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly - Legislation - Single Subject**

3 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland to
4 revise the manner of enforcing the single subject requirement for legislation;
5 requiring each house of the General Assembly to adopt a uniform rule requiring
6 each bill to embrace a single subject; prohibiting the General Assembly from
7 enacting certain omnibus bills; clarifying that the General Assembly may enact
8 omnibus curative or corrective legislation; providing that this amendment does
9 not relieve the General Assembly of certain restrictions governing appropriation
10 measures; submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of
11 Maryland for their adoption or rejection; and generally relating to the single
12 subject requirement for legislation.

13 BY proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland
14 Article III - Legislative Department
15 Section 29

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

19 **Article III - Legislative Department**

20 29.

21 The style of all Laws of this State shall be, "Be it enacted by the General
22 Assembly of Maryland:" and all Laws shall be passed by original bill; and every Law
23 enacted by the General Assembly shall [embrace but one subject, and that shall be
24 described in its title] DESCRIBE ITS SUBJECT IN ITS TITLE; and no Law, nor section of
25 Law, shall be revived, or amended by reference to its title, or section only; nor shall
26 any Law be construed by reason of its title, to grant powers, or confer rights which are
27 not expressly contained in the body of the Act; NOR SHALL THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
28 ENACT AN OMNIBUS BILL EMBRACING NONGERMANE, MULTIFARIOUS SUBJECTS;
29 AND IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ADOPT

1 A UNIFORM RULE OF PROCEDURE REQUIRING THAT EACH BILL EMBRACE BUT ONE
2 SUBJECT; and it shall be the duty of the General Assembly, in amending any article,
3 or section of the Code of Laws of this State, to enact the same, as the said article, or
4 section would read when amended. And whenever the General Assembly shall enact
5 any Public General Law, not amendatory of any section, or article in the said Code, it
6 shall be the duty of the General Assembly to enact the same, in articles and sections,
7 in the same manner, as the Code is arranged, and to provide for the publication of all
8 additions and alterations, which may be made to the said Code. NOTHING IN THIS
9 SECTION SHALL PROHIBIT OMNIBUS CURATIVE OR CORRECTIVE LEGISLATION OR
10 AFFECT THE DUTY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 52(8)(A)
11 OF THIS ARTICLE.

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

16 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section
17 proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland shall be submitted to the
18 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in
19 November, 2000 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in
20 Article XIV of the Constitution of this State. At that general election, the vote on this
21 proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot
22 there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendments" and "Against
23 the Constitutional Amendments," as now provided by law. Immediately after the
24 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the
25 proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Constitution, and further
26 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.