

HOUSE BILL 870
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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2002 Regular Session
2r1332
CF 2r1333

By: **Delegates Ports, Amedori, Baldwin, Bartlett, Boschert, Boutin, Brinkley, Cryor, Eckardt, Edwards, Elliott, Flanagan, Getty, Glassman, Greenip, Hutchins, Kach, Klima, La Vay, Leopold, McKee, Murphy, O'Donnell, Parrott, Pielke, Redmer, Rzepkowski, Schisler, Shank, Snodgrass, Stocksdale, Stull, and Bates**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2002
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Legislative Districting - Single-Member Delegate Districts**

3 FOR the purpose of amending the Constitution of Maryland to require that each
4 delegate elected to the House of Delegates shall represent a single-member
5 district; providing that each legislative district shall contain three
6 single-member delegate districts; requiring that each legislative and delegate
7 district be of substantially equal population within a certain percentage
8 deviance; establishing a certain preference for natural boundaries and political
9 subdivision boundaries; submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of
10 the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection; and generally relating to
11 the establishment of legislative districts.

12 BY proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland
13 Article III - Legislative Department
14 Section 3 and 4

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 III - Legislative Department**

19 3.

20 The State shall be divided by law into legislative districts for the election of
21 members of the Senate and the House of Delegates. Each legislative district shall
22 contain one (1) Senator and SHALL BE DIVIDED INTO three (3) [Delegates]
23 SINGLE-MEMBER DELEGATE DISTRICTS. [Nothing herein shall prohibit the
24 subdivision of any one or more of the legislative districts for the purpose of electing
25 members of the House of Delegates into three (3) single-member delegate districts or
26 one (1) single-member delegate district and one (1) multi-member delegate district.]
27 EACH DELEGATE SHALL REPRESENT A SINGLE-MEMBER DELEGATE DISTRICT.

1 4.

2 Each legislative district AND EACH OF ITS DELEGATE DISTRICTS shall consist of
3 adjoining territory, be compact in form, and of substantially equal population, PLUS
4 OR MINUS TWO PER CENT. [Due] THE HIGHEST regard shall be given to natural
5 boundaries and the boundaries of political subdivisions AND THE CROSSING OF
6 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION BOUNDARIES SHALL BE DISFAVORED.

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

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section
12 proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland shall be submitted to the
13 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in
14 November, 2002 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in
15 Article XIV of the Constitution of this State. At that general election, the vote on this
16 proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot
17 there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against
18 the Constitutional Amendment," as now provided by law. Immediately after the
19 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the
20 proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Constitution, and further
21 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.