

SENATE BILL 168
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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P5

2002 Regular Session
2r1440

By: **Senator Baker**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2002

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Constitutional Amendment - Legislative Districts - Equal Population**

3 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution to require that
4 legislative districts be formed in a good-faith effort to achieve precise
5 mathematical equality in population; and submitting this amendment to the
6 qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

7 BY proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland
8 Article III - Legislative Department
9 Section 4

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 III - Legislative Department**

14 4.

15 Each legislative district shall consist of adjoining territory, be compact in form,
16 and [of substantially equal population] BE FORMED IN A GOOD-FAITH EFFORT TO
17 ACHIEVE PRECISE MATHEMATICAL EQUALITY IN POPULATION. Due regard shall be
18 given to natural boundaries and the boundaries of political subdivisions.

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

23 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section
24 proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland shall be submitted to the
25 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in
26 November, 2002 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in
27 Article XIV of the Constitution of this State. At that general election, the vote on this
28 proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot
29 there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against

1 the Constitutional Amendment," as now provided by law. Immediately after the
2 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the
3 proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Constitution, and further
4 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.