

SENATE BILL 722
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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2002 Regular Session
2lr2477

By: **Senator Miller**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Standing Circuit Court Masters - Powers**

3 FOR the purpose of adding a new section to the Constitution to provide that there
4 shall be certain standing circuit court masters; authorizing standing circuit
5 court masters to exercise certain powers with respect to and only as prescribed
6 by law or rule as to domestic relations cases and juvenile causes under the
7 jurisdiction of the circuit court; submitting this amendment to the qualified
8 voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

9 BY proposing an addition to the Constitution of Maryland
10 Article IV - Judiciary Department
11 Section 26A

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article IV - Judiciary Department**

15 26A.

16 THERE SHALL BE STANDING CIRCUIT COURT MASTERS IN THE NUMBER AND
17 WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPENSATION PRESCRIBED BY LAW. MASTERS
18 MAY EXERCISE POWER WITH RESPECT TO AND ONLY AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW OR
19 RULE AS TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES AND JUVENILE CAUSES UNDER THE
20 JURISDICTION OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, INCLUDING:

21 (1) CONTESTED AND UNCONTESTED DIVORCE, ANNULMENT, PROPERTY
22 DISTRIBUTION, AND ALIMONY;

23 (2) CONTESTED AND UNCONTESTED CHILD CUSTODY, VISITATION, AND
24 SUPPORT;

25 (3) CIVIL CONTEMPT;

26 (4) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS; AND

1 (5) PEACE ORDERS.

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

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