

**HOUSE BILL 16**  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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D4

2004 Regular Session  
4r0285

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegate Boutin**  
Requested: July 7, 2003  
Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2004  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Valid Marriages**

3 FOR the purpose of adding a new section to the Maryland Constitution to establish  
4 that only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid in this State; and  
5 submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for  
6 their adoption or rejection.

7 BY proposing an addition to the Constitution of Maryland  
8 Article XV - Miscellaneous  
9 Section 8

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 XV - Miscellaneous**

14 8.

15 ONLY A MARRIAGE BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN IS VALID IN THIS STATE.

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

21 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section  
22 proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland shall be submitted to the  
23 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in  
24 November, 2004 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in  
25 Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election, the vote on this  
26 proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot  
27 there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against  
28 the Constitutional Amendment," as now provided by law. Immediately after the

1 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the  
2 proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and  
3 further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.