

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF HOUSE BILL 991
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

L2

6lr0572

By: **Montgomery County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2006

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County - Proposed Charter Amendments - Number of Petition**
3 **Signatures**
4 **MC 604-06**

5 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to
6 authorize Montgomery County to modify, through charter amendment, the
7 number of signatures required for certain petitions proposing charter
8 amendments; making technical changes; and submitting this amendment to the
9 qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

10 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution
11 Article XI-A - Local Legislation
12 Section 5

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

16 **Article XI-A - Local Legislation**

17 5.

18 (A) Amendments to any charter adopted by the City of Baltimore or by any
19 County of this State under the provisions of this Article may be proposed by:

20 (1) [a] A resolution of the Mayor of Baltimore and the City Council of
21 the City of Baltimore, or the Council of the County[, or by]; OR

22 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, a
23 petition FILED WITH THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE OR THE PRESIDENT OF
24 THE COUNTY COUNCIL THAT IS signed by not less than 20% of the registered voters of
25 the City or County, provided, however, that in any case 10,000 signatures shall be
26 sufficient to complete a petition. [A petition shall be filed with the Mayor of
27 Baltimore or the President of the County Council.]

1 (B) MONTGOMERY COUNTY MAY MODIFY, BY CHARTER AMENDMENT, THE
2 NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES REQUIRED TO PROPOSE A CHARTER
3 AMENDMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION TO ANY NUMBER NOT
4 EXCEEDING 10%, BUT NOT LESS THAN 5%, OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE
5 COUNTY.

6 (C) An amendment so proposed shall be submitted to the voters of the City or
7 County at the next general or congressional election occurring after the passage of the
8 resolution or the filing of the petition. If at the election the majority of the votes cast
9 for and against the amendment shall be in favor thereof, the amendment shall be
10 adopted and become a part of the charter of the City or County from and after the
11 thirtieth day after said election. The amendments shall be published by the Mayor of
12 Baltimore or President of the County Council once a week for five successive weeks
13 prior to the election in at least one newspaper published in said City or County.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly
15 determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by this Act
16 affects only one county and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the Maryland
17 Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments apply.

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section
19 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the
20 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in
21 November, 2006 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in
22 Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election, the vote on this
23 proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot
24 there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against
25 the Constitutional Amendment," as now provided by law. Immediately after the
26 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the
27 proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and
28 further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.