
By: **Delegates Barve and Kach**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly - Legislation - Single Subject and Multisubject Bills**

3 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to revise
4 the manner of enforcing the single subject requirement for legislation; requiring
5 each House of the General Assembly to adopt a uniform rule, subject to an
6 exception, requiring each bill to embrace a single subject; prohibiting the
7 General Assembly from enacting certain omnibus bills, except under certain
8 circumstances; authorizing the presiding officers of the General Assembly to
9 designate a certain number of bills each session that a committee may utilize to
10 embrace nongermane, multifarious subjects; clarifying that the General
11 Assembly may enact omnibus curative or corrective legislation; providing that
12 only certain amendments may be added to certain bills by a committee or on the
13 floor of either House of the General Assembly; providing that this amendment
14 does not relieve the General Assembly of certain restrictions governing
15 appropriation measures; generally relating to requirements for single subject
16 and multisubject legislation; and submitting this amendment to the qualified
17 voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

18 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution
19 Article III - Legislative Department
20 Section 29

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

24 **Article III - Legislative Department**

25 29.

26 (A) The style of all Laws of this State shall be, "Be it enacted by the General
27 Assembly of Maryland:" and all Laws shall be passed by original bill; and every Law
28 enacted by the General Assembly shall [embrace but one subject, and that shall be
29 described in its title] DESCRIBE ITS SUBJECT IN ITS TITLE; and no Law, nor section of
30 Law, shall be revived, or amended by reference to its title, or section only; nor shall
31 any Law be construed by reason of its title, to grant powers, or confer rights which are

1 not expressly contained in the body of the Act; NOR, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN
2 SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C) OF THIS SECTION, SHALL THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENACT
3 AN OMNIBUS BILL EMBRACING NONGERMANE, MULTIFARIOUS SUBJECTS; AND IT
4 SHALL BE THE DUTY OF EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ADOPT A
5 UNIFORM RULE OF PROCEDURE REQUIRING THAT, SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF
6 THIS SECTION, EACH BILL EMBRACE BUT ONE SUBJECT; and it shall be the duty of
7 the General Assembly, in amending any article, or section of the Code of Laws of this
8 State, to enact the same, as the said article, or section would read when amended.
9 And whenever the General Assembly shall enact any Public General Law, not
10 amendatory of any section, or article in the said Code, it shall be the duty of the
11 General Assembly to enact the same, in articles and sections, in the same manner, as
12 the Code is arranged, and to provide for the publication of all additions and
13 alterations, which may be made to the said Code.

14 (B) (1) EACH SESSION THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY, BY JOINT WRITTEN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THEM, MAY DESIGNATE NO
16 MORE THAN THREE BILLS TO BE AMENDED IN COMMITTEE TO EMBRACE
17 NONGERMANE, MULTIFARIOUS SUBJECTS.

18 (2) (I) ANY AMENDMENT ADOPTED BY A COMMITTEE AND REPORTED
19 FAVORABLY TO EITHER HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON A BILL DESIGNATED
20 BY THE PRESIDING OFFICERS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL
21 EMBRACE ONLY THE ORIGINAL SUBJECT OF THE BILL OR THE NONGERMANE,
22 MULTIFARIOUS SUBJECTS ADDED TO THE BILL BY THE COMMITTEE, OR A
23 COMBINATION OF THE ORIGINAL SUBJECT AND NONGERMANE, MULTIFARIOUS
24 SUBJECTS.

25 (II) NO AMENDMENT MAY BE ADDED TO A BILL SUBJECT TO THIS
26 SUBSECTION DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL IN EITHER HOUSE OF THE
27 GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT DOES NOT EMBRACE THE SUBJECTS INCLUDED IN THE
28 BILL AS IT WAS REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE TO THE HOUSE.

29 (C) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL PROHIBIT OMNIBUS CURATIVE OR
30 CORRECTIVE LEGISLATION OR AFFECT THE DUTY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO
31 COMPLY WITH SECTION 52(8)(A) OF THIS ARTICLE.

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

37 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section
38 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the
39 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in
40 November, 2006 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in
41 Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election, the vote on this
42 proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot
43 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 Maryland Constitution, and
4 further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.