

SENATE BILL 169

D4

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

8lr0377

By: **Senators Greenip, Colburn, Haines, Harris, Mooney, Munson, Simonaire, and Stoltzfus**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2008

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland's Marriage Protection Act**

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;
5 establishing that certain unions or relationships between individuals of the
6 same sex are not valid in this State; and submitting this amendment to the
7 qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution
9 Article XV – Miscellaneous
10 Section 8

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

14 **Article XV – Miscellaneous**

15 **8.**

16 (A) **ONLY A MARRIAGE BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN IS VALID IN THIS**
17 **STATE.**

18 (B) **A CIVIL UNION OR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS OF THE**
19 **SAME SEX, BY WHATEVER NAME OR TITLE, THAT CONFERS THE BENEFIT OF**
20 **MARRIAGE IS NOT VALID IN THIS STATE.**

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly
22 determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by this Act

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the
2 Maryland Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not
3 apply.

4 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section
5 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the
6 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in
7 November, 2008 for their adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the
8 Maryland Constitution. At that general election, the vote on this proposed amendment
9 to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the
10 words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional
11 Amendment," as now provided by law. Immediately after the election, all returns shall
12 be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as
13 directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further proceedings had in
14 accordance with Article XIV.