

# HOUSE BILL 925

E4, D3, J1

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

9lr1847

CF 9lr3087

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By: **Delegates Dwyer, Aumann, Bartlett, Bates, Beitzel, Boteler, Burns, Costa, Elliott, Elmore, Frank, George, Haddaway, Impallaria, King, Kipke, Krebs, McComas, McConkey, McDonough, Myers, Norman, O'Donnell, Schuh, Serafini, Shank, Shewell, Smigiel, Sossi, Stifler, Stocksdale, Stull, Walkup, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2009

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Personhood Amendment**

3 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Declaration of Rights to  
4 establish that the right not to be deprived of life is vested in all human beings,  
5 irrespective of age, health, function, physical dependency, or method of  
6 reproduction, from the beginning of their biological development; making  
7 technical changes; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the  
8 State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

9 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution  
10 Declaration of Rights  
11 Article 24

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

15 **Declaration of Rights**

16 Article 24.

17 (A) That no [man] **PERSON** ought to be taken or imprisoned or disseized of  
18 [his] **THE PERSON'S** freehold, liberties or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled, or, in any  
19 manner, destroyed, or deprived of [his] life, liberty or property, but by the judgment of  
20 [his] **THE PERSON'S** peers, or by the Law of the land.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) THAT THE RIGHT NOT TO BE DEPRIVED OF LIFE IS VESTED IN ALL**  
2 **HUMAN BEINGS, IRRESPECTIVE OF AGE, HEALTH, FUNCTION, PHYSICAL**  
3 **DEPENDENCY, OR METHOD OF REPRODUCTION, FROM THE BEGINNING OF**  
4 **THEIR BIOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT.**

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

10           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section  
11 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the  
12 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in  
13 November, 2010 for their adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the  
14 Maryland Constitution. At that general election, the vote on this proposed amendment  
15 to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the  
16 words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional  
17 Amendment," as now provided by law. Immediately after the election, all returns shall  
18 be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as  
19 directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further proceedings had in  
20 accordance with Article XIV.