

# HOUSE BILL 728

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

2lr3175

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By: **Delegate Dwyer**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2012

Assigned to: Judiciary and Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland 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; and  
5 submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State for their  
6 adoption or rejection.

7 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution  
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 Maryland Constitution read as follows:

13 **Article XV – Miscellaneous**

14 **8.**

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

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

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section  
23 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 qualified voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November, 2012  
2 for their adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution.  
3 At that general election, the vote on this proposed amendment to the Constitution  
4 shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the words "For the  
5 Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional Amendment," as now  
6 provided by law. Immediately after the election, all returns shall be made to the  
7 Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as directed by Article  
8 XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further proceedings had in accordance with  
9 Article XIV.