

HOUSE BILL 84

P1, G1, P5

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

7lr0758

By: **Delegate Luedtke**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2017

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Constitutional Convention – Approval by Majority of Voters Voting on the**
3 **Question – Requirement**

4 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution requiring the
5 General Assembly to provide by law for the assembly of a constitutional convention
6 if a majority of voters voting on the question of whether to call a convention, rather
7 than a majority of voters at the election or elections, vote for a convention; and
8 submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State for their adoption or
9 rejection.

10 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution
11 Article XIV – Amendments to the Constitution
12 Section 2

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

16 **Article XIV – Amendments to the Constitution**

17 2.

18 It shall be the duty of the General Assembly to provide by Law for taking, at the
19 general election to be held in the year nineteen hundred and seventy, and every twenty
20 years thereafter, the sense of the People in regard to calling a Convention for altering this
21 Constitution; and if a majority of voters **VOTING ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO**
22 **CALL A CONVENTION** at [such] **THE** election or elections shall vote for a Convention, the
23 General Assembly, at its next session, shall provide by Law for the assembling of such
24 convention, and for the election of Delegates thereto. Each County, and Legislative District
25 of the City of Baltimore, shall have in such Convention a number of Delegates equal to its

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 representation in both Houses at the time at which the Convention is called. But any
2 Constitution, or change, or amendment of the existing Constitution, which may be adopted
3 by such Convention, shall be submitted to the voters of this State, and shall have no effect
4 unless the same shall have been adopted by a majority of the voters voting thereon.

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

9 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section
10 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the
11 qualified voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2018 for
12 their adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that
13 general election, the vote on this proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by
14 ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional
15 Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional Amendment," as now provided by law.
16 Immediately after the election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and
17 against the proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution,
18 and further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.