

SENATE BILL 423

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SB 417/10 – EHE

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

7lr2055
CF HB 345

By: **Senators Pinsky, Astle, Benson, Conway, Currie, DeGrange, Feldman, Ferguson, Guzzone, Kagan, Kasemeyer, King, Klausmeier, Lee, Madaleno, Manno, Mathias, McFadden, Middleton, Miller, Muse, Nathan–Pulliam, Peters, Ramirez, Robinson, Rosapepe, Smith, Young, Zirkin, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2017

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elective Franchise – Registration and Voting at Polling Place**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the General Assembly to provide by suitable enactment a
4 process to allow a qualified individual to register and vote at a polling place on
5 election day or on a day designated for voting before election day; making a stylistic
6 change; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State for their
7 adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution

9 Article I – Elective Franchise

10 Section 1 and 2

11 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution

12 Article I – Elective Franchise

13 Section 2A

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

17 **Article I – Elective Franchise**

18 1.

19 All elections shall be by ballot. Except as provided in **SECTION 2A OR** Section 3 of
20 this article, every citizen of the United States, of the age of 18 years or upwards, who is a
21 resident of the State as of the time for the closing of registration next preceding the election,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 shall be entitled to vote in the ward or election district in which the citizen resides at all
2 elections to be held in this State. A person once entitled to vote in any election district, shall
3 be entitled to vote there until the person shall have acquired a residence in another election
4 district or ward in this State.

5 2.

6 [The] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 2A OF THIS ARTICLE, THE** General
7 Assembly shall provide by law for a uniform Registration of the names of all the voters in
8 this State, who possess the qualifications prescribed in this Article, which Registration
9 shall be conclusive evidence to the Judges of Election of the right of every person, thus
10 registered, to vote at any election thereafter held in this State; but no person shall vote, at
11 any election, Federal or State, hereafter to be held in this State, or at any municipal election
12 in the City of Baltimore, unless [his] **THE PERSON'S** name appears in the list of registered
13 voters; the names of all persons shall be added to the list of qualified voters by the officers
14 of Registration, who have the qualifications prescribed in the first section of this Article,
15 and who are not disqualified under the provisions of the second and third sections thereof.

16 **2A.**

17 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO PROVIDE BY SUITABLE**
18 **ENACTMENT A PROCESS TO ALLOW A QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL TO REGISTER AND**
19 **VOTE AT A POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY OR ON A DAY DESIGNATED FOR**
20 **VOTING BEFORE ELECTION DAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3(B) OF THIS**
21 **ARTICLE.**

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

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section
27 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the
28 qualified voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2018 for
29 their adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that
30 general election, the vote on this proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by
31 ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional
32 Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional Amendment," as now provided by law.
33 Immediately after the election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and
34 against the proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution,
35 and further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.