

HOUSE BILL 1328

G1, P5

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

8lr2116

By: **Delegates Miele, Buckel, Cassilly, Hornberger, McComas, Shoemaker, and Szeliga**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2018

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly – Establishment of House Districts**
3 **(Maryland Fair Representation Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to alter the
5 provisions relating to the establishment of legislative districts for the purpose of
6 electing members of the House of Delegates to require that all delegate districts
7 consist of either three single–member districts or one three–member district; 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 III – Legislative Department
12 Section 3

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 III – Legislative Department**

17 3.

18 The State shall be divided by law into legislative districts for the election of members
19 of the Senate and the House of Delegates. Each legislative district shall contain one (1)
20 Senator and three (3) Delegates. [Nothing herein shall prohibit the subdivision of any one
21 or more] **ALL** of the legislative districts **ESTABLISHED** for the purpose of electing members
22 of the House of Delegates [into] **SHALL CONSIST OF EITHER** three (3) single–member
23 delegate districts or one (1) [single–member] **THREE–MEMBER** delegate district [and one
24 (1) multi–member delegate district].

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

5 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the
6 Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified
7 voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2018 for adoption or
8 rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election,
9 the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on each
10 ballot there shall be printed the words “For the Constitutional Amendment” and “Against
11 the Constitutional Amendment”, as now provided by law. Immediately after the election,
12 all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed
13 amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further
14 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.