

HOUSE BILL 1031

J1

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

9lr0318

By: **Delegates Busch, Acevero, Anderson, Atterbeary, B. Barnes, Barve, Branch, Bridges, Cain, Cardin, Carr, Charkoudian, Clippinger, Crutchfield, Cullison, D.M. Davis, Dumais, Ebersole, Feldmark, W. Fisher, Fraser-Hidalgo, Gilchrist, Hettleman, Hill, Jones, Kaiser, Kelly, Korman, Lafferty, Lehman, R. Lewis, Lierman, Lopez, Love, Luedtke, McIntosh, Moon, Mosby, Palakovich Carr, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, Qi, Reznik, Rosenberg, Shetty, Smith, Solomon, Stein, Stewart, Terrasa, C. Watson, Wells, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Declaration of Rights – Right of Bodily Integrity and Privacy**

3 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to establish
4 that the people have the right to bodily integrity and privacy to make personal
5 decisions about childbearing and procreation without unwarranted government
6 intrusion; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State for
7 their adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution
9 Declaration of Rights
10 Article 48

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

14 **Declaration of Rights**

15 **ARTICLE 48.**

16 **THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO BODILY INTEGRITY AND PRIVACY TO**
17 **MAKE PERSONAL DECISIONS ABOUT CHILDBEARING AND PROCREATION WITHOUT**
18 **UNWARRANTED GOVERNMENT INTRUSION.**

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 2020 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.