

SENATE BILL 990

B1
SB 820/18 – B&T

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

9lr3277

By: **Senator Ferguson**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2019

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Budget**

3 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution authorizing the
4 General Assembly to increase or add Executive Department items in the budget bill,
5 subject to a certain limitation; providing for the veto of certain budget bill items;
6 providing for the reversion to original appropriations of certain vetoed items in the
7 budget bill; providing that certain vetoed items in the budget bill shall be void;
8 authorizing the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates
9 to convene in extraordinary session to consider whether to override a vetoed item in
10 the budget bill; authorizing the General Assembly to override budget bill item vetoes;
11 establishing the manner in which and the time at which budget bill items become
12 law; clarifying language; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of
13 the State for their adoption or rejection.

14 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution
15 Article II – Executive Department
16 Section 17

17 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution
18 Article III – Legislative Department
19 Section 14 and 52

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

23 **Article II – Executive Department**

24 17.

25 (a) To guard against hasty or partial legislation and encroachment of the

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Legislative Department upon the co-ordinate Executive and Judicial Departments, every
2 Bill passed by the House of Delegates and the Senate, before it becomes a law, shall be
3 presented to the Governor of the State. If the Governor approves [he] **THE BILL, THE**
4 **GOVERNOR** shall sign it[, but if not he]. **EXCEPT FOR THE BUDGET BILL, IF THE**
5 **GOVERNOR DISAPPROVES THE BILL, THE GOVERNOR** shall return it with [his]
6 objections to the House in which it originated, which House shall enter the objections at
7 large on its Journal and proceed to reconsider the Bill. Each House may adopt by rule a
8 veto calendar procedure that permits Bills that are to be reconsidered to be read and voted
9 upon as a single group. The members of each House shall be afforded reasonable notice of
10 the Bills to be placed on each veto calendar. Upon the objection of a member, any Bill shall
11 be removed from the veto calendar. If, after such reconsideration, three-fifths of the
12 members elected to that House pass the Bill, it shall be sent with the objections to the other
13 House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if it passes by three-fifths of the
14 members elected to that House it shall become a law. The votes of both Houses shall be
15 determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the Bill
16 shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively.

17 (b) If any Bill presented to the Governor while the General Assembly is in session
18 is not returned by [him] **THE GOVERNOR** with [his] objections within six days (Sundays
19 excepted), the Bill shall be a law in like manner as if [he] **THE GOVERNOR** signed it, unless
20 the General Assembly, by adjournment, prevents its return, in which case it shall not be a
21 law.

22 (c) Any Bill presented to the Governor within six days (Sundays excepted), prior
23 to adjournment of any session of the General Assembly, or after such adjournment, shall
24 become law without the Governor's signature unless it is vetoed by the Governor within 30
25 days after its presentment.

26 (d) Any Bill, **EXCEPT THE BUDGET BILL**, vetoed by the Governor shall be
27 returned to the House in which it originated immediately after the House has organized at
28 the next regular or special session of the General Assembly, **OTHER THAN IN**
29 **EXTRAORDINARY SESSION CONVENED UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION**.
30 The Bill may then be reconsidered according to the procedure specified in this section. Any
31 Bill enacted over the veto of the Governor, or any Bill which shall become law as the result
32 of the failure of the Governor to act within the time specified, shall take effect 30 days after
33 the Governor's veto is over-ridden, or on the date specified in the Bill, whichever is later.
34 If the Bill is an emergency measure, it shall take effect when enacted. No such vetoed Bill
35 shall be returned to the Legislature when a new General Assembly of Maryland has been
36 elected and sworn since the passage of the vetoed Bill.

37 (e) [The] **EXCEPT FOR THE BUDGET BILL, THE** Governor shall have power to
38 disapprove of any item or items of any Bills making appropriations of money embracing
39 distinct items, and the part or parts of the Bill approved shall be the law, and the item or
40 items of appropriations disapproved shall be void unless repassed according to the rules or
41 limitations prescribed for the passage of other Bills over the Executive veto.

1 **(F) (1) THE GOVERNOR MAY APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE ITEMS IN THE**
2 **BUDGET BILL AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION.**

3 **(2) THE GOVERNOR MAY VETO ONLY ITEMS RELATING TO THE**
4 **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT THAT HAVE BEEN INCREASED OR ADDED BY THE**
5 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE GOVERNOR MAY NOT VETO ANY OTHER ITEMS IN THE**
6 **BUDGET BILL.**

7 **(3) IF THE GOVERNOR VETOES AN ITEM THAT HAD BEEN INCREASED**
8 **BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT OVERRIDE**
9 **THE VETO UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION, THAT ITEM SHALL REVERT TO**
10 **THE APPROPRIATION ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED BY THE GOVERNOR. THE ORIGINAL**
11 **APPROPRIATION SHALL THEN BE LAW IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION BY**
12 **THE GOVERNOR.**

13 **(4) IF THE GOVERNOR VETOES AN ITEM THAT HAD BEEN ADDED BY**
14 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT OVERRIDE THE**
15 **VETO UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION, THAT ITEM SHALL BE VOID.**

16 **(5) ITEMS NOT DISAPPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR SHALL BE LAW**
17 **IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION BY THE GOVERNOR.**

18 **(G) (1) IF THE GOVERNOR VETOES AN ITEM IN THE BUDGET BILL, THE**
19 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY CONVENE IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION WITHIN 30 DAYS**
20 **AFTER THE DATE OF THE VETO TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO OVERRIDE THE VETO. IF**
21 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WISHES TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO OVERRIDE THE**
22 **GOVERNOR'S VETO OF AN ITEM IN THE BUDGET BILL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE**
23 **SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES JOINTLY SHALL ISSUE A**
24 **PROCLAMATION SPECIFYING THE DATE ON WHICH TO CONVENE IN EXTRAORDINARY**
25 **SESSION.**

26 **(2) THE SOLE PURPOSE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION UNDER THIS**
27 **SUBSECTION SHALL BE TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S**
28 **VETO OF AN ITEM IN THE BUDGET BILL. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY NOT**
29 **CONSIDER THE OVERRIDE OF THE GOVERNOR'S VETO OF ANY OTHER BILL.**

30 **(3) (I) THE BUDGET BILL SHALL BE RETURNED BY THE**
31 **GOVERNOR TO THE HOUSE IN WHICH IT ORIGINATED, AND EACH VETOED ITEM**
32 **SHALL BE CONSIDERED INDIVIDUALLY.**

33 **(II) IF THREE-FIFTHS OF THE MEMBERS ELECTED TO THAT**
34 **HOUSE VOTE TO OVERRIDE THE VETO OF AN ITEM, IT SHALL BE SENT TO THE OTHER**
35 **HOUSE FOR CONSIDERATION.**

1 **(III) IF THREE-FIFTHS OF THE MEMBERS OF THAT HOUSE VOTE**
 2 **TO OVERRIDE THE VETO OF THE ITEM, THAT ITEM SHALL REVERT TO THE**
 3 **APPROPRIATION ORIGINALLY PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE**
 4 **APPROPRIATION AS ORIGINALLY PASSED SHALL THEN BECOME LAW IMMEDIATELY,**
 5 **WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION BY THE GOVERNOR OR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

6 **Article III – Legislative Department**

7 14.

8 The General Assembly shall meet on the second Wednesday of January, nineteen
 9 hundred and seventy-one, and on the same day in every year thereafter, and at no other
 10 time, unless convened **BY JOINT PROCLAMATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**
 11 **AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES UNDER SECTION 17(G) OF**
 12 **ARTICLE II OF THIS CONSTITUTION OR** by Proclamation of the Governor. [A] **THE**
 13 **GOVERNOR SHALL ISSUE A** Proclamation convening the General Assembly in
 14 extraordinary session [must be issued by the Governor] if a majority of the members elected
 15 to the Senate and a majority of the members elected to the House of Delegates join in a
 16 petition to the Governor requesting that [he] **THE GOVERNOR** convene the General
 17 Assembly in extraordinary session, and the Governor shall convene the General Assembly
 18 on the date specified in the petition. This section does not affect the Governor's power to
 19 convene the General Assembly in extraordinary session pursuant to Section 16 of Article II
 20 of this Constitution.

21 52.

22 (1) The General Assembly shall not appropriate any money out of the Treasury
 23 except in accordance with the provisions of this section.

24 (2) Every appropriation bill shall be either a Budget Bill, or a Supplementary
 25 Appropriation Bill, as hereinafter provided.

26 (3) On the third Wednesday in January in each year, (except in the case of a newly
 27 elected Governor, and then not later than ten days after the convening of the General
 28 Assembly), unless such time shall be extended by the General Assembly, the Governor shall
 29 submit to the General Assembly a Budget for the next ensuing fiscal year. Each Budget
 30 shall contain a complete plan of proposed expenditures and estimated revenues for said
 31 fiscal year and shall show the estimated surplus or deficit of revenues at the end of the
 32 preceding fiscal year. Accompanying each Budget shall be a statement showing: (a) the
 33 revenues and expenditures for the preceding fiscal year; (b) the current assets, liabilities,
 34 reserves and surplus or deficit of the State; (c) the debts and funds of the State; (d) an
 35 estimate of the State's financial condition as of the beginning and end of the preceding fiscal
 36 year; (e) any explanation the Governor may desire to make as to the important features of
 37 the Budget and any suggestions as to methods for reduction or increase of the State's
 38 revenue.

1 (4) Each Budget shall embrace an estimate of all appropriations in such form and
2 detail as the Governor shall determine or as may be prescribed by law, as follows: (a) for
3 the General Assembly as certified to the Governor in the manner hereinafter provided; (b)
4 for the Executive Department; (c) for the Judiciary Department, as provided by law, as
5 certified to the Governor; (d) to pay and discharge the principal and interest of the debt of
6 the State in conformity with Section 34 of Article III of the Constitution, and all laws
7 enacted in pursuance thereof; (e) for the salaries payable by the State and under the
8 Constitution and laws of the State; (f) for the establishment and maintenance throughout
9 the State of a thorough and efficient system of public schools in conformity with Article 8
10 of the Constitution and with the laws of the State; and (g) for such other purposes as are
11 set forth in the Constitution or laws of the State.

12 (5) The Governor shall deliver to the presiding officer of each House the Budget
13 and a bill for all the proposed appropriations of the Budget classified and in such form and
14 detail as he shall determine or as may be prescribed by law; and the presiding officer of
15 each House shall promptly cause said bill to be introduced therein, and such bill shall be
16 known as the "Budget Bill." The Governor may, with the consent of the General Assembly,
17 before final action thereon by the General Assembly, amend or supplement said Budget to
18 correct an oversight, provide funds contingent on passage of pending legislation or, in case
19 of an emergency, by delivering such an amendment or supplement to the presiding officers
20 of both Houses; and such amendment or supplement shall thereby become a part of said
21 Budget Bill as an addition to the items of said bill or as a modification of or a substitute for
22 any item of said bill such amendment or supplement may affect.

23 (5a) The Budget and the Budget Bill as submitted by the Governor to the General
24 Assembly shall have a figure for the total of all proposed appropriations and a figure for
25 the total of all estimated revenues available to pay the appropriations, and the figure for
26 total proposed appropriations shall not exceed the figure for total estimated revenues.
27 Neither the Governor in submitting an amendment or supplement to the Budget Bill nor
28 the General Assembly in amending the Budget Bill shall thereby cause the figure for total
29 proposed appropriations to exceed the figure for total estimated revenues, including any
30 revisions, and in the Budget Bill as enacted the figure for total estimated revenues always
31 shall be equal to or exceed the figure for total appropriations.

32 (6) The General Assembly shall not amend the Budget Bill so as to affect either
33 the obligations of the State under Section 34 of Article III of the Constitution, or the
34 provisions made by the laws of the State for the establishment and maintenance of a system
35 of public schools or the payment of any salaries required to be paid by the State of Maryland
36 by the Constitution [thereof; and the]. **THE** General Assembly may amend the bill by
37 increasing or diminishing [the] items therein relating to the General Assembly, [and] by
38 increasing or diminishing [the] items therein relating to the judiciary, [but except as
39 hereinbefore specified, may not alter the said bill except to strike out or reduce items
40 therein, provided, however, that the] **AND BY INCREASING, DIMINISHING, OR ADDING**
41 **ITEMS RELATING TO THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED THAT THE TOTAL OF**
42 **THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT APPROVED BY THE**

1 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT EXCEED THE TOTAL ALLOWANCE FOR THE**
2 **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT SUBMITTED BY THE GOVERNOR. THE** salary or
3 compensation of any public officer [shall] **MAY** not be decreased during [his] **THE PUBLIC**
4 **OFFICER'S** term of office[]; and such bill, when and as passed by both Houses, shall be a
5 law immediately without further action by the Governor]. **IF PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES,**
6 **THE BILL SHALL BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR FOR APPROVAL OR**
7 **DISAPPROVAL ACCORDING TO SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE II OF THIS CONSTITUTION.**

8 (7) The Governor and such representatives of the executive departments, boards,
9 officers and commissions of the State expending or applying for State's moneys, as have
10 been designated by the Governor for this purpose, shall have the right, and when requested
11 by either House of the General Assembly, it shall be their duty to appear and be heard with
12 respect to any Budget Bill during the consideration thereof, and to answer inquiries relative
13 thereto.

14 (8) Supplementary Appropriation Bill. Either House may consider other
15 appropriations but both Houses shall not finally act upon such appropriations until after
16 the Budget Bill has been finally acted upon by both Houses, and no such other
17 appropriation shall be valid except in accordance with the provisions following: (a) Every
18 such appropriation shall be embodied in a separate bill limited to some single work, object
19 or purpose therein stated and called herein a Supplementary Appropriation Bill; (b) Each
20 Supplementary Appropriation Bill shall provide the revenue necessary to pay the
21 appropriation thereby made by a tax, direct or indirect, to be levied and collected as shall
22 be directed in said bill; (c) No Supplementary Appropriation Bill shall become a law unless
23 it be passed in each House by a vote of a majority of the whole number of the members
24 elected, and the yeas and nays recorded on its final passage; (d) Each Supplementary
25 Appropriation Bill shall be presented to the Governor of the State as provided in Section
26 17 of Article 2 of the Constitution and thereafter all the provisions of said section shall
27 apply.

28 (9) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the General Assembly
29 from passing at any time, in accordance with the provisions of Section 28 of Article 3 of the
30 Constitution and subject to the Governor's power of approval as provided in Section 17 of
31 Article 2 of the Constitution, an appropriation bill to provide for the payment of any
32 obligation of the State within the protection of Section 10 of Article 1 of the Constitution of
33 the United States.

34 (10) If the Budget Bill shall not have been finally acted upon by the Legislature
35 seven days before the expiration of the regular session, the Governor shall issue a
36 proclamation extending the session for some further period as may, in his judgment, be
37 necessary for the passage of such bill; but no matter other than such bill shall be considered
38 during such extended session except a provision for the cost thereof.

39 (11) For the purpose of making up the Budget, the Governor shall require from the
40 proper State officials (including all executive departments, all executive and administrative
41 offices, bureaus, boards, commissions and agencies that expend or supervise the

1 expenditure of, and all institutions applying, for State moneys and appropriations) such
2 itemized estimates and other information, in such form and at such times as directed by
3 the Governor. An estimate for a program required to be funded by a law which will be in
4 effect during the fiscal year covered by the Budget and which was enacted before July 1 of
5 the fiscal year prior to that date shall provide a level of funding not less than that prescribed
6 in the law. The estimates for the Legislative Department, certified by the presiding officer
7 of each House, of the Judiciary, as provided by law, certified by the Chief Judge of the Court
8 of Appeals, and for the public schools, as provided by law, shall be transmitted to the
9 Governor, in such form and at such times as directed by the Governor, and shall be included
10 in the Budget without revision.

11 (12) The Governor may provide for public hearings on all estimates and may
12 require the attendance at such hearings of representatives of all agencies, and for all
13 institutions applying for State moneys. After such public hearings he may, in his discretion,
14 revise all estimates except those for the legislative and judiciary departments, and for the
15 public schools, as provided by law, and except that he may not reduce an estimate for a
16 program below a level of funding prescribed by a law which will be in effect during the fiscal
17 year covered by the Budget, and which was enacted before July 1 of the fiscal year prior
18 thereto.

19 (13) The General Assembly may, from time to time, enact such laws not
20 inconsistent with this section, as may be necessary and proper to carry out its provisions.

21 (14) In the event of any inconsistency between any of the provisions of this Section
22 and any of the other provisions of the Constitution, the provisions of this Section shall
23 prevail. But nothing herein shall in any manner affect the provisions of Section 34 of Article
24 3 of the Constitution or of any laws heretofore or hereafter passed in pursuance thereof, or
25 be construed as preventing the Governor from calling extraordinary sessions of the General
26 Assembly, as provided by Section 16 of Article 2, or as preventing the General Assembly at
27 such extraordinary [extraordinary] sessions from considering any emergency appropriation
28 or appropriations.

29 (15) If any item of any appropriation bill passed under the provisions of this
30 Section shall be held invalid upon any ground, such invalidity shall not affect the legality
31 of the bill or of any other item of such bill or bills.

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

36 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the
37 Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified
38 voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2020 for adoption or
39 rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election,
40 the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on each
41 ballot there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against

1 the Constitutional Amendment”, as now provided by law. Immediately after the election,
2 all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed
3 amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further
4 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.