

# SENATE BILL 1028

B1  
SB 990/19 – SRU

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

01r0335

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By: **Senators Rosapepe, Elfreth, Griffith, Guzzone, King, Peters, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 14, 2020

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Budget and Taxation, February 17, 2020

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 12, 2020

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

### 2 **Balancing the 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 beginning in a certain fiscal year, subject to a certain limitation; providing for the  
6 veto of certain budget bill items; providing for the reversion to proposed  
7 appropriations of certain vetoed items in the budget bill; providing that certain  
8 vetoed items in the budget bill shall be void; authorizing the President of the Senate  
9 and the Speaker of the House of Delegates to convene in extraordinary session to  
10 consider whether to override a vetoed item in the budget bill; authorizing the General  
11 Assembly to override budget bill item vetoes; establishing the manner in which and  
12 the time at which the budget bill items become law; clarifying language; making  
13 conforming and stylistic changes; requiring a certain question to be submitted to the  
14 qualified voters of the State at a certain election; and submitting this amendment to  
15 the qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection.

16 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution

17 Article II – Executive Department

18 Section 17

19 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution

20 Article III – Legislative Department

21 Section 14 and 52

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

4 **Article II – Executive Department**

5 17.

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

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

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

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

1 shall be returned to the Legislature when a new General Assembly of Maryland has been  
2 elected and sworn since the passage of the vetoed Bill.

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

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

10 (2) THE GOVERNOR MAY VETO ONLY ITEMS RELATING TO THE  
11 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT THAT HAVE BEEN INCREASED OR ADDED BY THE  
12 GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE GOVERNOR MAY NOT VETO ANY OTHER ITEMS IN THE  
13 BUDGET BILL.

14 (3) IF THE GOVERNOR VETOES AN ITEM THAT HAD BEEN INCREASED  
15 BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT OVERRIDE  
16 THE VETO UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION, THAT ITEM SHALL REVERT TO  
17 THE PROPOSED APPROPRIATION SUBMITTED BY THE GOVERNOR. THE PROPOSED  
18 APPROPRIATION SHALL THEN BE LAW IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION BY  
19 THE GOVERNOR.

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

23 (5) ITEMS NOT DISAPPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR SHALL BE LAW  
24 IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION BY THE GOVERNOR.

25 (G) (1) IF THE GOVERNOR VETOES AN ITEM IN THE BUDGET BILL, THE  
26 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY CONVENE IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION WITHIN 30 DAYS  
27 AFTER THE DATE OF THE VETO TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO OVERRIDE THE VETO. IF  
28 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WISHES TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO OVERRIDE THE  
29 GOVERNOR'S VETO OF AN ITEM IN THE BUDGET BILL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
30 SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES JOINTLY SHALL ISSUE A  
31 PROCLAMATION SPECIFYING THE DATE ON WHICH TO CONVENE IN EXTRAORDINARY  
32 SESSION.

33 (2) (I) THE BUDGET BILL SHALL BE RETURNED BY THE  
34 GOVERNOR TO THE HOUSE IN WHICH IT ORIGINATED, AND EACH VETOED ITEM  
35 SHALL BE CONSIDERED INDIVIDUALLY.

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

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

9                   **Article III – Legislative Department**

10 **14.**

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

24 **52.**

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

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

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

1 year; (e) any explanation the Governor may desire to make as to the important features of  
2 the Budget and any suggestions as to methods for reduction or increase of the State's  
3 revenue.

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

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

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

35 (6) The General Assembly shall not amend the Budget Bill so as to affect either  
36 the obligations of the State under Section 34 of Article III of the Constitution, or the  
37 provisions made by the laws of the State for the establishment and maintenance of a system  
38 of public schools or the payment of any salaries required to be paid by the State of Maryland  
39 by the Constitution [thereof; and the].

40 **(6A) IN ENACTING A BALANCED BUDGET BILL EACH FISCAL YEAR AS**  
41 **REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE ~~General Assembly may amend the bill by~~**  
42 **~~increasing [or], diminishing [the], OR ADDING items therein relating to the General~~**

1 ~~Assembly, [and] by increasing [or], diminishing [the], OR ADDING items therein relating~~  
 2 ~~to the judiciary, [but except as hereinbefore specified, may not alter the said bill except to~~  
 3 ~~strike out or reduce items therein, provided, however, that the] AND BY INCREASING,~~  
 4 ~~DIMINISHING, OR ADDING ITEMS RELATING TO THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,~~  
 5 ~~PROVIDED THAT THE TOTAL OF THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE~~  
 6 ~~DEPARTMENT APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT EXCEED THE~~  
 7 ~~TOTAL PROPOSED APPROPRIATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT SUBMITTED~~  
 8 ~~BY THE GOVERNOR. THE salary or compensation of any public officer [shall] MAY not be~~  
 9 ~~decreased during [his] THE PUBLIC OFFICER'S term of office[; and such bill, when and~~  
 10 ~~as]. WHEN passed by both Houses, THE BUDGET BILL shall be a law immediately without~~  
 11 ~~further action by the Governor~~ General Assembly may amend the bill by increasing or  
 12 diminishing the items therein relating to the General Assembly, and by increasing or  
 13 diminishing the items therein relating to the judiciary, but except as hereinbefore specified,  
 14 may not alter the [said] bill except to strike out or reduce items therein, provided, however,  
 15 that the salary or compensation of any public officer [shall] MAY not be decreased during  
 16 [his] THE PUBLIC OFFICER'S term of office[; and such bill, when and as]. WHEN passed  
 17 by both Houses, THE BUDGET BILL shall be a law immediately without further action by  
 18 the Governor. WHEN PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES, THE BUDGET BILL SHALL BE  
 19 PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL ACCORDING TO  
 20 SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE II OF THIS CONSTITUTION.

21 (6B) IN ENACTING A BALANCED BUDGET BILL AS REQUIRED UNDER THIS  
 22 SECTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE  
 23 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY AMEND THE BILL BY INCREASING, DIMINISHING, OR  
 24 ADDING ITEMS THEREIN RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BY INCREASING,  
 25 DIMINISHING, OR ADDING ITEMS THEREIN RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY, AND BY  
 26 INCREASING, DIMINISHING, OR ADDING ITEMS RELATING TO THE EXECUTIVE  
 27 DEPARTMENT, PROVIDED THAT THE TOTAL OF THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE  
 28 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT  
 29 EXCEED THE TOTAL PROPOSED APPROPRIATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE  
 30 DEPARTMENT SUBMITTED BY THE GOVERNOR. THE SALARY OR COMPENSATION OF  
 31 ANY PUBLIC OFFICER MAY NOT BE DECREASED DURING THE PUBLIC OFFICER'S  
 32 TERM OF OFFICE. WHEN PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES, THE BUDGET BILL SHALL BE A  
 33 LAW IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION BY THE GOVERNOR.

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

40 (8) Supplementary Appropriation Bill. Either House may consider other  
 41 appropriations but both Houses shall not finally act upon such appropriations until after

1 the Budget Bill has been finally acted upon by both Houses, and no such other  
2 appropriation shall be valid except in accordance with the provisions following: (a) Every  
3 such appropriation shall be embodied in a separate bill limited to some single work, object  
4 or purpose therein stated and called herein a Supplementary Appropriation Bill; (b) Each  
5 Supplementary Appropriation Bill shall provide the revenue necessary to pay the  
6 appropriation thereby made by a tax, direct or indirect, to be levied and collected as shall  
7 be directed in said bill; (c) No Supplementary Appropriation Bill shall become a law unless  
8 it be passed in each House by a vote of a majority of the whole number of the members  
9 elected, and the yeas and nays recorded on its final passage; (d) Each Supplementary  
10 Appropriation Bill shall be presented to the Governor of the State as provided in Section  
11 17 of Article 2 of the Constitution and thereafter all the provisions of said section shall  
12 apply.

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

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

24 (11) For the purpose of making up the Budget, the Governor shall require from the  
25 proper State officials (including all executive departments, all executive and administrative  
26 offices, bureaus, boards, commissions and agencies that expend or supervise the  
27 expenditure of, and all institutions applying, for State moneys and appropriations) such  
28 itemized estimates and other information, in such form and at such times as directed by  
29 the Governor. An estimate for a program required to be funded by a law which will be in  
30 effect during the fiscal year covered by the Budget and which was enacted before July 1 of  
31 the fiscal year prior to that date shall provide a level of funding not less than that prescribed  
32 in the law. The estimates for the Legislative Department, certified by the presiding officer  
33 of each House, of the Judiciary, as provided by law, certified by the Chief Judge of the Court  
34 of Appeals, and for the public schools, as provided by law, shall be transmitted to the  
35 Governor, in such form and at such times as directed by the Governor, and shall be included  
36 in the Budget without revision.

37 (12) The Governor may provide for public hearings on all estimates and may  
38 require the attendance at such hearings of representatives of all agencies, and for all  
39 institutions applying for State moneys. After such public hearings he may, in his discretion,  
40 revise all estimates except those for the legislative and judiciary departments, and for the  
41 public schools, as provided by law, and except that he may not reduce an estimate for a  
42 program below a level of funding prescribed by a law which will be in effect during the fiscal

1 year covered by the Budget, and which was enacted before July 1 of the fiscal year prior  
2 thereto.

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

5 (14) In the event of any inconsistency between any of the provisions of this Section  
6 and any of the other provisions of the Constitution, the provisions of this Section shall  
7 prevail. But nothing herein shall in any manner affect the provisions of Section 34 of Article  
8 3 of the Constitution or of any laws heretofore or hereafter passed in pursuance thereof, or  
9 be construed as preventing the Governor from calling extraordinary sessions of the General  
10 Assembly, as provided by Section 16 of Article 2, or as preventing the General Assembly at  
11 such extraordinary [extraordinary] sessions from considering any emergency appropriation  
12 or appropriations.

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

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

20 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

21 (a) The amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this  
22 Act shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the next general election to be  
23 held in November 2020 for adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland  
24 Constitution.

25 (b) (1) At that general election, the vote on the proposed amendment to the  
26 Constitution shall be by ballot, and on each ballot there shall be printed the words “For the  
27 Constitutional Amendment” and “Against the Constitutional Amendment”, as now  
28 provided by law.

29 (2) At that general election, a question substantially similar to the  
30 following shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the State:

31 “Question \_\_\_ – Constitutional Amendment

32 Authorizing the General Assembly to increase, diminish, or add items in the annual budget  
33 bill in order to enact a balanced State operating budget for ~~each~~ fiscal year 2024 and each  
34 fiscal year thereafter.

35 Authorizing the General Assembly, in enacting a balanced budget bill for ~~each~~ fiscal year  
36 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, to increase, diminish, or add items, provided that the



1 General Assembly may not exceed the total proposed appropriation as submitted by the  
2 Governor.”.

3 (c) Immediately after the election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of  
4 the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the  
5 Maryland Constitution, and further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.