

## Chapter 808

**(Senate Bill 55)**

AN ACT concerning

**Legislative Department – Eligibility to Serve as Senators and Delegates – Place of Abode**

FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to establish that a person is eligible to serve as a Senator or Delegate if, *beginning on a certain date*, the person has maintained a *primary* place of abode for a certain period of time under certain circumstances in the district that the person has been chosen to represent; making stylistic changes; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection.

BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution  
 Article III – Legislative Department  
 Section 9

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

**Article III – Legislative Department**

9.

A person is eligible to serve as a Senator or Delegate, who on the date of [his] **THE PERSON'S** election, (1) is a citizen of the State of Maryland, (2) has resided therein for at least one year next preceding that date, and (3) if the district [which he] **THAT THE PERSON** has been chosen to represent has been established for at least six months prior to the date of [his] **THE PERSON'S** election, has resided ~~AND MAINTAINED A PLACE OF ABODE~~ in that district for six months next preceding that date **AND, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, HAS MAINTAINED A PRIMARY PLACE OF ABODE IN THAT DISTRICT FOR SIX MONTHS NEXT PRECEDING THAT DATE.**

If the district [which] **THAT** the person has been chosen to represent has been established less than six months prior to the date of [his] **THE PERSON'S** election, then in addition to (1) and (2) above, [he] **THE PERSON** shall have resided ~~AND MAINTAINED A PLACE OF ABODE~~ in the district for as long as it has been established **AND, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, SHALL HAVE MAINTAINED A PRIMARY PLACE OF ABODE IN THE DISTRICT FOR AS LONG AS IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.**

A person is eligible to serve as a Senator, if [he] **THE PERSON** has attained the age of twenty–five years, or as a Delegate, if [he] **THE PERSON** has attained the age of twenty–one years, on the date of [his] **THE PERSON’S** election.

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

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2022 for adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election, the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on each ballot there shall be printed the words “For the Constitutional Amendment” and “Against the Constitutional Amendment”, as now provided by law. Immediately after the election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.

**Assigned a chapter number, enactment subject to constitutional referendum,  
May 30, 2021.**