

HOUSE BILL 1260

G1
HB 1491/20 – HRU

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

1lr2942

By: **Delegate Malone**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2021

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Congressional Districts – Standards**
3 **(Anti-Gerrymandering of Maryland’s Congressional Districts)**

4 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to require
5 congressional districts to conform to certain standards and that due regard be given
6 to certain boundaries; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the
7 State for their adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution
9 New Article XX – Congressional Districts
10 Section 1

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 **ARTICLE XX – CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS**

15 **1.**

16 **EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SHALL CONSIST OF ADJOINING TERRITORY,**
17 **BE COMPACT IN FORM, AND BE OF SUBSTANTIALLY EQUAL POPULATION. DUE**
18 **REGARD SHALL BE GIVEN TO NATURAL BOUNDARIES AND THE BOUNDARIES OF**
19 **POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.**

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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