

HOUSE BILL 597

G1, L2

3lr1801

By: **St. Mary's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2023

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **St. Mary's County – County Commissioners Election Method – Straw Ballot**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a straw ballot be held on the issue of changing the
4 method of selecting the county commissioners in St. Mary's County; and generally
5 relating to the holding of a straw ballot in St. Mary's County.

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
7 That under the provisions of the Election Law Article, the St. Mary's County Board of
8 Elections, in consultation with the State Board of Elections, shall prepare and include on
9 the ballot for the November general election of 2024 the following question:

10 “St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners – Election of Members

11 Do you favor changing the method of selection of four of the five members of the St.
12 Mary's County Board of County Commissioners from the current method of being elected
13 at large by the voters of St. Mary's County, with one member residing in each of the four
14 election districts, to a new method where each of the four members are elected by only the
15 voters of the district in which the member resides and the fifth member is elected at large
16 and may reside in any district of the County?”.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the St. Mary's County Board
18 of Elections and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County shall do those things necessary
19 and proper to place this question on the ballot prepared for the November general election
20 of 2024, so that each participating voter in the County may have the opportunity to cast a
21 vote on this question. The question shall be proposed, presented, tallied, and reported in
22 general accordance with the provisions of the Election Law Article. The vote on this
23 question is advisory only.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
25 1, 2023.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

