

# HOUSE BILL 203

G1  
HB 182/24 – HRU

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
(PRE-FILED)

51r0675

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By: **Delegate Bouchat**

Requested: July 29, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Districting – Single-Member Districts and Legislative and Congressional**  
3 **Redistricting and Apportionment Convention**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring that each legislative district established for the purpose of  
5 electing members of the House of Delegates consist of a certain number of  
6 single-member delegate districts; requiring the General Assembly to enact a law  
7 establishing and governing a Legislative and Congressional Redistricting and  
8 Apportionment Convention to establish legislative and congressional districts and  
9 establishing certain requirements regarding the Redistricting Convention; providing  
10 that plans certified by the Redistricting Convention become law on certain dates  
11 under certain circumstances; establishing the Legislative and Congressional  
12 Redistricting and Apportionment Convention; authorizing the General Assembly to  
13 challenge the legality of a plan certified by the Redistricting Convention; requiring  
14 the Supreme Court of Maryland to take certain actions under certain circumstances  
15 regarding legislative and congressional districting; and generally relating to  
16 legislative and congressional districting.

17 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution  
18 Article III – Legislative Department  
19 Section 3 and 5

20 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution  
21 Article IV – Judiciary Department  
22 Section 14

23 BY adding to  
24 Article – Election Law  
25 Section 8–7A–01 through 8–7A–11 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 7A. The  
26 Legislative and Congressional Redistricting and Apportionment Convention”  
27 Annotated Code of Maryland

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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**

3.

The State shall be divided by law into legislative districts for the election of members of the Senate and the House of Delegates. Each legislative district shall contain one (1) Senator and three (3) Delegates. [Nothing herein shall prohibit the subdivision of any one or more] **EACH** of the legislative districts **ESTABLISHED** for the purpose of electing members of the House of Delegates [into] **SHALL CONSIST OF** three (3) single-member delegate districts [or one (1) single-member delegate district and one (1) multi-member delegate district].

5.

**(A) IN THIS SECTION, “REDISTRICTING CONVENTION” MEANS THE LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT CONVENTION.**

**(B) SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ENACT A LAW ESTABLISHING AND GOVERNING A LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT CONVENTION.**

**(C) (1) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1 OF THE YEAR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE DECENNIAL CENSUS, THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL BE ELECTED BY QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE STATE ON A DATE DETERMINED BY THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS.**

**(2) THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL CONSIST OF 188 MEMBERS.**

**(3) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, ON OR BEFORE JULY 1 OF THE YEAR OF THE DECENNIAL CENSUS, THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL APPORTION THE NUMBER OF SEATS FOR THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION AMONG THE COUNTIES ACCORDING TO EACH COUNTY’S POPULATION COUNT IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING DECENNIAL CENSUS.**

**(II) EACH COUNTY SHALL HAVE AT LEAST THREE SEATS ON THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION.**

1           **(4) EACH MEMBER OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL BE**  
2 **ELECTED AT LARGE BY THE QUALIFIED VOTERS IN THE COUNTY THAT THE MEMBER**  
3 **SEEKS TO REPRESENT.**

4           **(D) (1) TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER OF THE REDISTRICTING**  
5 **CONVENTION, AN INDIVIDUAL MUST:**

6                   **(I) BE A REGISTERED VOTER WHO, FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS**  
7 **IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF ELECTION, HAS BEEN:**

8                           **1. CONTINUOUSLY REGISTERED IN THE STATE WITH**  
9 **THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY; OR**

10                           **2. CONTINUOUSLY NOT REGISTERED WITH A PRINCIPAL**  
11 **POLITICAL PARTY;**

12                   **(II) BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF ELECTION;**

13                   **(III) HAVE RESIDED IN THE STATE FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR**  
14 **IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE MEMBER'S ELECTION; AND**

15                   **(IV) HAVE RESIDED AND MAINTAINED A PLACE OF RESIDENCE**  
16 **IN THE COUNTY THAT THE INDIVIDUAL SEEKS TO REPRESENT FOR AT LEAST 6**  
17 **MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE ELECTION.**

18           **(2) AN INDIVIDUAL IS NOT QUALIFIED TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR**  
19 **MEMBER OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS:**

20                   **(I) THE GOVERNOR OR A CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE;**

21                   **(II) A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS ELECTED FROM THE**  
22 **STATE OR A CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE;**

23                   **(III) A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR A CANDIDATE**  
24 **FOR THAT OFFICE;**

25                   **(IV) AN ELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR A**  
26 **CANDIDATE FOR AN ELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE;**

27                   **(V) AN OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF A POLITICAL PARTY OR**  
28 **POLITICAL COMMITTEE;**

1 (VI) 1. A CONTRACTOR PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL  
2 SERVICES TO:

3 A. THE GOVERNOR OR A CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE;

4 B. A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR A  
5 CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE; OR

6 C. A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS ELECTED FROM  
7 THE STATE OR A CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE; OR

8 2. A CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYEE OF OR A  
9 CONSULTANT TO AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN ITEM 1 OF THIS ITEM;

10 (VII) AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER OF AN INDIVIDUAL  
11 DESCRIBED IN ITEM (I), (II), (III), (IV), OR (V) OF THIS PARAGRAPH;

12 (VIII) A STAFF MEMBER OF:

13 1. THE GOVERNOR OR A CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE;

14 2. A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR A  
15 CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE;

16 3. A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS ELECTED FROM  
17 THE STATE OR A CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE; OR

18 4. AN ELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR A  
19 CANDIDATE FOR AN ELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE; OR

20 (IX) A CURRENT OR FORMER REGISTERED LOBBYIST.

21 (3) A MEMBER OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION MAY NOT BE  
22 ELECTED OR APPOINTED AS A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS OR MEMBER OF THE  
23 GENERAL ASSEMBLY DURING THE FIRST TERM OF OFFICE FOR WHICH THE  
24 CONGRESSIONAL OR LEGISLATIVE PLAN CERTIFIED BY THE REDISTRICTING  
25 CONVENTION TAKES EFFECT.

26 (E) (1) [Following each] ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR  
27 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE decennial census of the United States [and after public  
28 hearings, the Governor shall prepare a plan], THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL  
29 ADOPT PLANS setting forth the boundaries of the legislative districts for electing [of] the

1 members of the Senate and the House of Delegates AND THE CONGRESSIONAL  
2 DISTRICTS FOR ELECTING REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

3 [The Governor shall present the plan to the President of the Senate and Speaker of  
4 the House of Delegates who shall introduce the Governor's plan as a joint resolution to the  
5 General Assembly, not later than the first day of its regular session in the second year  
6 following every census, and the Governor may call a special session for the presentation of  
7 the plan prior to the regular session. The plan shall conform to Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this  
8 Article. Following each decennial census the General Assembly may by joint resolution  
9 adopt a plan setting forth the boundaries of the legislative districts for the election of  
10 members of the Senate and the House of Delegates, which plan shall conform to Sections  
11 2, 3 and 4 of this Article. If a plan has been adopted by the General Assembly by the 45th  
12 day after the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly in the second year  
13 following every census, the plan adopted by the General Assembly shall become law. If no  
14 plan has been adopted by the General Assembly for these purposes by the 45th day after  
15 the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly in the second year following  
16 every census, the Governor's plan presented to the General Assembly shall become law.]

17 (2) ON ADOPTION OF A PLAN, THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION  
18 SHALL:

19 (i) CERTIFY THAT THE PLAN IS THE PLAN ADOPTED BY THE  
20 REDISTRICTING CONVENTION; AND

21 (ii) SEND THE CERTIFIED PLAN TO THE PRESIDING OFFICERS  
22 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

23 (3) (i) ON RECEIPT OF A CERTIFIED PLAN SENT UNDER  
24 PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE PRESIDING OFFICERS SHALL PREPARE  
25 THE PLAN FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

26 (ii) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF EACH  
27 OF THE TWO HOUSES, MAY CHALLENGE THE LEGALITY OF THE CERTIFIED PLAN.

28 (iii) IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTES TO CHALLENGE THE  
29 CERTIFIED PLAN, THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND SHALL:

30 1. CONSIDER THE CHALLENGE; AND

31 2. WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
32 VOTE, ISSUE A DECISION THAT AFFIRMS THE PLAN AS MEETING ALL  
33 CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS OR REJECTS THE PLAN AS  
34 FAILING TO MEET CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.

1 (IV) IF THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND REJECTS THE  
 2 PLAN, THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL ADOPT AND CERTIFY A NEW PLAN  
 3 THAT ADDRESSES THE RULING OF THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND.

4 (4) A PLAN CONSIDERED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL BE  
 5 TREATED IN THE SAME MANNER AS A BILL FOR PURPOSES OF PUBLICATION,  
 6 CODIFICATION, NOTIFICATION, AND DISTRIBUTION.

7 (5) A PLAN CERTIFIED BY THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL  
 8 BECOME LAW:

9 (I) ON THE 31ST DAY AFTER CERTIFICATION IF THE GENERAL  
 10 ASSEMBLY DOES NOT CHALLENGE THE PLAN; OR

11 (II) ON THE DAY THAT THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND  
 12 ISSUES A DECISION AFFIRMING THE PLAN IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
 13 CHALLENGED THE PLAN.

14 (F) THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL PETITION THE SUPREME  
 15 COURT OF MARYLAND TO ESTABLISH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS OR CONGRESSIONAL  
 16 DISTRICTS ACCORDING TO THE STANDARDS SET FORTH IN SECTIONS 3 AND 4 OF  
 17 THIS ARTICLE OF THIS CONSTITUTION IF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION FAILS  
 18 TO ADOPT AND CERTIFY A PLAN UNDER THIS SECTION.

19 (G) Upon petition of any registered voter, the Supreme Court of Maryland shall  
 20 have original jurisdiction to review the legislative districting OR CONGRESSIONAL  
 21 DISTRICTING of the State and may grant appropriate relief, if it finds that the districting  
 22 of the State is not consistent with requirements of either the Constitution of the United  
 23 States of America, or the Constitution of Maryland.

24 **Article IV – Judiciary Department**

25 14.

26 The Supreme Court of Maryland shall be composed of seven justices, one from the  
 27 First Appellate Judicial Circuit consisting of Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen  
 28 Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; one from the Second  
 29 Appellate Judicial Circuit consisting of Baltimore and Harford Counties; one from the Third  
 30 Appellate Judicial Circuit, consisting of Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, and  
 31 Washington Counties; one from the Fourth Appellate Judicial Circuit, consisting of Prince  
 32 George's County; one from the Fifth Appellate Judicial Circuit, consisting of Anne Arundel,  
 33 Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties; one from the Sixth Appellate Judicial Circuit,  
 34 consisting of Baltimore City; and one from the Seventh Appellate Judicial Circuit,  
 35 consisting of Montgomery County. The Justices of the Supreme Court of Maryland shall be  
 36 residents of their respective Appellate Judicial Circuits. The term of each Justice of the

1 Supreme Court of Maryland shall begin on the date of the [Justice's] JUSTICE'S  
 2 qualification. One of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Maryland shall be designated by  
 3 the Governor as the Chief Justice. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Maryland shall  
 4 be co-extensive with the limits of the State and such as now is or may hereafter be  
 5 prescribed by law. **EXCLUSIVE AMONG THE STATE COURTS, THE SUPREME COURT OF**  
 6 **MARYLAND SHALL HAVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION: (1) TO ESTABLISH THE**  
 7 **LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT PLAN AND THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT PLAN IN THE**  
 8 **EVENT THAT A PLAN IS NOT ENACTED UNDER SECTION 5 OF ARTICLE III OF THIS**  
 9 **CONSTITUTION; AND (2) TO CONSIDER A PETITION SEEKING REVIEW OF THE**  
 10 **LEGALITY OF A PLAN TO ESTABLISH LEGISLATIVE OR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS**  
 11 **ENACTED UNDER SECTION 5 OF ARTICLE III OF THIS CONSTITUTION.** It shall hold its  
 12 sessions in the City of Annapolis at such time or times as it shall from time to time by rule  
 13 prescribe. Its session or sessions shall continue not less than ten months in each year, if  
 14 the business before it shall so require, and it shall be competent for the justices temporarily  
 15 to transfer their sittings elsewhere upon sufficient cause. The salary of each Justice of the  
 16 Supreme Court of Maryland shall be that now or hereafter prescribed by the General  
 17 Assembly and shall not be diminished during the [Justice's] JUSTICE'S continuance in  
 18 office. Five of the justices shall constitute a quorum, and five justices shall sit in each case  
 19 unless the Supreme Court of Maryland shall direct that an additional justice or justices sit  
 20 for any case. The concurrence of a majority of those sitting shall be sufficient for the decision  
 21 of any cause, and an equal division of those sitting in a case has the effect of affirming the  
 22 decision appealed from if there is no application for reargument as hereinafter provided. In  
 23 any case where there is an equal division or a three to two division of the Supreme Court  
 24 of Maryland a reargument before the full Court of seven justices shall be granted to the  
 25 losing party upon application as a matter of right.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
 27 as follows:

28 **Article – Election Law**

29 **SUBTITLE 7A. THE LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING AND**  
 30 **APPORTIONMENT CONVENTION.**

31 **8-7A-01.**

32 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
 33 **INDICATED.**

34 **(B) “PLAN” MEANS THE PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT PLAN OR THE**  
 35 **PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT PLAN ADOPTED BY THE REDISTRICTING**  
 36 **CONVENTION.**

37 **(C) “REDISTRICTING CONVENTION” MEANS THE LEGISLATIVE AND**  
 38 **CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT CONVENTION.**

1 8-7A-02.

2 IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT:

3 (1) NEITHER THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS NOR THE CONGRESSIONAL  
4 DISTRICTS BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF FAVORING OR DISCRIMINATING  
5 AGAINST AN INCUMBENT OFFICEHOLDER, A CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE, OR A  
6 POLITICAL PARTY; AND

7 (2) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE COMPLY WITH AND  
8 IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE III, §§ 2, 3, 4, AND 5 AND ARTICLE IV, §  
9 14 OF THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION.

10 8-7A-03.

11 THERE IS A LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING AND  
12 APPORTIONMENT CONVENTION.

13 8-7A-04.

14 (A) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2031, AND MARCH 1 EACH YEAR ENDING IN  
15 THE NUMERAL 1 THEREAFTER, THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL BE  
16 ELECTED BY QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE STATE ON A DATE DETERMINED BY THE  
17 STATE BOARD.

18 (B) THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION IS  
19 DESIGNED TO PRODUCE A REDISTRICTING CONVENTION THAT IS:

20 (1) INDEPENDENT FROM LEGISLATIVE INFLUENCE; AND

21 (2) REASONABLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE'S GEOGRAPHICAL  
22 MAKEUP.

23 8-7A-05.

24 (A) THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION CONSISTS OF 188 MEMBERS.

25 (B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ON OR  
26 BEFORE JULY 1, 2030, AND JULY 1 EACH YEAR ENDING IN THE NUMERAL 0  
27 THEREAFTER, THE STATE BOARD SHALL APPORTION THE NUMBER OF SEATS FOR  
28 THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION AMONG THE COUNTIES ACCORDING TO EACH  
29 COUNTY'S POPULATION COUNT IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING DECENNIAL



1 CENSUS.

2 (2) EACH COUNTY SHALL HAVE AT LEAST THREE SEATS ON THE  
3 REDISTRICTING CONVENTION.

4 (C) EACH MEMBER OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL BE  
5 ELECTED AT LARGE BY THE QUALIFIED VOTERS IN THE COUNTY THAT THE MEMBER  
6 SEEKS TO REPRESENT.

7 (D) THE MEMBERS OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL CONSIST  
8 OF THE CANDIDATES WHO RECEIVE THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTES CAST WITHIN  
9 EACH COUNTY.

10 (E) (1) TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER OF THE REDISTRICTING  
11 CONVENTION, AN INDIVIDUAL MUST:

12 (I) BE A REGISTERED VOTER WHO, FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS  
13 IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF ELECTION, HAS BEEN:

14 1. CONTINUOUSLY REGISTERED IN THE STATE WITH  
15 THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY; OR

16 2. CONTINUOUSLY NOT REGISTERED WITH A PRINCIPAL  
17 POLITICAL PARTY;

18 (II) BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF ELECTION;

19 (III) HAVE RESIDED IN THE STATE FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR  
20 IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE ELECTION; AND

21 (IV) HAVE RESIDED AND MAINTAINED A PLACE OF RESIDENCE IN  
22 THE COUNTY THAT THE INDIVIDUAL SEEKS TO REPRESENT FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS  
23 IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE ELECTION.

24 (2) AN INDIVIDUAL IS NOT QUALIFIED TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR  
25 MEMBER OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS:

26 (I) THE GOVERNOR OR A CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE;

27 (II) A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS ELECTED FROM THE  
28 STATE OR A CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE;

29 (III) A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR A CANDIDATE

1 FOR THAT OFFICE;

2 (IV) AN ELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR A  
3 CANDIDATE FOR AN ELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE;

4 (V) AN OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF A POLITICAL PARTY OR  
5 POLITICAL COMMITTEE;

6 (VI) 1. A CONTRACTOR PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL  
7 SERVICES TO:

8 A. THE GOVERNOR OR A CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE;

9 B. A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR A  
10 CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE; OR

11 C. A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS ELECTED FROM  
12 THE STATE OR A CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE; OR

13 2. A CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYEE OF OR A  
14 CONSULTANT TO AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN ITEM 1 OF THIS ITEM;

15 (VII) AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER OF AN INDIVIDUAL  
16 DESCRIBED IN ITEM (I), (II), (III), (IV), OR (V) OF THIS PARAGRAPH;

17 (VIII) A STAFF MEMBER OF:

18 1. THE GOVERNOR OR A CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE;

19 2. A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR A  
20 CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE;

21 3. A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS ELECTED FROM  
22 THE STATE OR A CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE; OR

23 4. AN ELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR A  
24 CANDIDATE FOR AN ELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE; OR

25 (IX) A CURRENT OR FORMER REGISTERED LOBBYIST.

26 (3) A MEMBER OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION MAY NOT BE  
27 ELECTED OR APPOINTED AS A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS OR MEMBER OF THE  
28 GENERAL ASSEMBLY DURING THE FIRST TERM OF OFFICE FOR WHICH THE

1 CONGRESSIONAL OR LEGISLATIVE PLAN CERTIFIED BY THE REDISTRICTING  
2 CONVENTION TAKES EFFECT.

3 (F) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION  
4 CONTINUES UNTIL LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL PLANS BECOME LAW.

5 (2) A MEMBER OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION IS ELIGIBLE  
6 FOR REELECTION.

7 (G) EACH MEMBER OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL APPLY  
8 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE IN A MANNER THAT IS IMPARTIAL AND THAT  
9 REINFORCES PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE INTEGRITY OF THE REDISTRICTING  
10 PROCESS.

11 (H) A MEMBER OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION:

12 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE  
13 REDISTRICTING CONVENTION; BUT

14 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE  
15 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

16 8-7A-06.

17 (A) THE 188 MEMBERS ELECTED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SERVE AS  
18 THE MEMBERS OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION BEGINNING ON THE DATE  
19 THEY ARE ELECTED UNTIL THE DATE ON WHICH THE LEGISLATIVE AND  
20 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTING PLANS BECOME LAW.

21 (B) IF THERE IS A VACANCY IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE REDISTRICTING  
22 CONVENTION, THE LOSING CANDIDATE FROM THE SAME COUNTY WHO RECEIVED  
23 THE NEXT HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTES SHALL FILL THE VACANCY FOR THE  
24 REMAINDER OF THE TERM.

25 (C) (1) THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION MAY REMOVE A MEMBER:

26 (I) FOR NEGLIGENCE OF DUTY;

27 (II) FOR MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE;

28 (III) FOR A DISABILITY THAT MAKES THE MEMBER UNABLE TO  
29 DISCHARGE THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICE;

1 (IV) FOR FAILING TO MAINTAIN THE QUALIFICATIONS UNDER §  
2 8-7A-05 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR

3 (V) IF THE MEMBER IS CONVICTED OF OR PLEADS GUILTY OR  
4 NOLO CONTENDERE WITH RESPECT TO A FELONY OR CRIME INVOLVING MORAL  
5 TURPITUDE, WHETHER OR NOT ANY APPEAL OR OTHER PROCEEDING IS PENDING TO  
6 HAVE THE CONVICTION OR PLEA SET ASIDE.

7 (2) BEFORE REMOVING A MEMBER OF THE REDISTRICTING  
8 CONVENTION, THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL GIVE THE MEMBER:

9 (I) WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE CHARGES; AND

10 (II) AN OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER THE CHARGES.

11 (3) A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE REDISTRICTING  
12 CONVENTION SHALL BE REQUIRED TO REMOVE A MEMBER OF THE REDISTRICTING  
13 CONVENTION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

14 8-7A-07.

15 (A) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE REDISTRICTING  
16 CONVENTION IS A QUORUM.

17 (B) FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS, THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL  
18 ELECT A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.

19 (C) THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF  
20 LEGISLATIVE SERVICES JOINTLY SHALL STAFF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION.

21 8-7A-08.

22 (A) THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL:

23 (1) CONDUCT A PROCESS THAT IS OPEN AND TRANSPARENT TO  
24 ENABLE FULL PUBLIC CONSIDERATION OF AND COMMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT  
25 OF LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS;

26 (2) ESTABLISH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS AND CONGRESSIONAL  
27 DISTRICTS ACCORDING TO THE REDISTRICTING STANDARDS ESTABLISHED UNDER  
28 ARTICLE III, §§ 3 AND 4 OF THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION AND FEDERAL AND  
29 STATE LAW; AND

1           **(3) CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH INTEGRITY AND FAIRNESS.**

2           **(B) (1) THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION ARE**  
3 **SUBJECT TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT AND THE PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT.**

4           **(2) MEETINGS OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL BE**  
5 **LIVESTREAMED TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO OBSERVE THE**  
6 **PROCEEDINGS OF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION.**

7           **(C) (1) THE MEMBERS OF EACH COUNTY DELEGATION TO THE**  
8 **REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL HOLD AT LEAST ONE HEARING IN THE COUNTY**  
9 **THAT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR PUBLIC INPUT AND DELIBERATION THAT IS:**

10                           **(I) SUBJECT TO PUBLIC NOTICE; AND**

11                           **(II) DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE CITIZEN OUTREACH AND TO**  
12 **SOLICIT BROAD PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS.**

13           **(2) EACH HEARING HELD UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
14 **SUBSECTION SHALL BE SCHEDULED BEFORE THE CONSIDERATION OF ANY PLAN BY**  
15 **THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION.**

16 **8-7A-09.**

17           **(A) (1) IN THE YEAR FOLLOWING EACH DECENNIAL CENSUS OF THE**  
18 **UNITED STATES, OR WHEN OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY LAW, THE REDISTRICTING**  
19 **CONVENTION SHALL ADOPT PLANS TO ESTABLISH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS AND**  
20 **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE STANDARDS AND**  
21 **PROCESSES ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION,**  
22 **AND FEDERAL LAW.**

23           **(2) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR ENDING IN THE NUMERAL**  
24 **1, THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL APPROVE TWO PLANS:**

25                           **(I) ONE PLAN SHALL DESCRIBE THE DISTRICT BOUNDARY**  
26 **LINES FOR THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF**  
27 **DELEGATES; AND**

28                           **(II) ONE PLAN SHALL DESCRIBE THE DISTRICT BOUNDARY**  
29 **LINES FOR THE STATE'S REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.**

30           **(B) THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL ISSUE WITH EACH PLAN:**

1           **(1) MAPS SHOWING THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS AND THE**  
2 **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS; AND**

3           **(2) A REPORT THAT:**

4                 **(I) EXPLAINS THE BASIS ON WHICH THE REDISTRICTING**  
5 **CONVENTION MADE ITS DECISIONS TO ACHIEVE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CRITERIA**  
6 **SPECIFIED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

7                 **(II) INCLUDES DEFINITIONS OF THE TERMS AND STANDARDS**  
8 **USED IN DRAWING EACH PLAN.**

9           **(C) ON ADOPTION OF A PLAN, THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL:**

10                 **(1) CERTIFY THAT THE PLAN IS THE PLAN ADOPTED BY THE**  
11 **REDISTRICTING CONVENTION; AND**

12                 **(2) SEND THE CERTIFIED PLAN TO THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE**  
13 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

14           **(D) (1) ON RECEIPT OF A CERTIFIED PLAN SENT UNDER SUBSECTION (C)**  
15 **OF THIS SECTION, THE PRESIDING OFFICERS SHALL PREPARE THE PLAN FOR**  
16 **CONSIDERATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

17                 **(2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF EACH OF THE**  
18 **TWO HOUSES, MAY CHALLENGE LEGALITY OF THE CERTIFIED PLAN.**

19                 **(3) IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTES TO CHALLENGE THE**  
20 **CERTIFIED PLAN, THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND SHALL:**

21                         **(I) CONSIDER THE CHALLENGE; AND**

22                         **(II) WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTE,**  
23 **ISSUE A DECISION THAT AFFIRMS THE PLAN AS MEETING ALL CONSTITUTIONAL AND**  
24 **STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS OR REJECTS THE PLAN AS FAILING TO MEET**  
25 **CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.**

26                 **(4) IF THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND REJECTS THE PLAN, THE**  
27 **REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL CERTIFY A NEW PLAN THAT ADDRESSES THE**  
28 **RULING OF THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND.**

29           **(E) A PLAN CONSIDERED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL BE TREATED**  
30 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS A BILL FOR PURPOSES OF PUBLICATION, CODIFICATION,**

1 NOTIFICATION, AND DISTRIBUTION.

2 (F) A PLAN CERTIFIED BY THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL  
3 BECOME LAW:

4 (1) ON THE 31ST DAY AFTER CERTIFICATION IF THE GENERAL  
5 ASSEMBLY DOES NOT CHALLENGE THE PLAN; OR

6 (2) ON THE DAY THAT THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND ISSUES A  
7 DECISION AFFIRMING THE PLAN IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CHALLENGED THE  
8 PLAN.

9 8-7A-10.

10 (A) THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL PETITION THE SUPREME  
11 COURT OF MARYLAND TO ESTABLISH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS OR CONGRESSIONAL  
12 DISTRICTS IN CONFORMANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AND  
13 STATUTORY STANDARDS IF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION FAILS TO ADOPT AND  
14 CERTIFY A PLAN UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

15 (B) THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL REPRESENT THE STATE  
16 REGARDING ANY PETITION SEEKING A REVIEW OF A CERTIFIED PLAN.

17 (C) IN ANY CASE BROUGHT IN A FEDERAL COURT TO REVIEW A PLAN, IF THE  
18 REDISTRICTING CONVENTION IS NOT A PARTY TO THE CASE, THE REDISTRICTING  
19 CONVENTION SHALL MOVE TO INTERVENE IN THE CASE ON BEHALF OF THE STATE.

20 8-7A-11.

21 (A) THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND SHALL HAVE ORIGINAL  
22 JURISDICTION TO ESTABLISH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS AND CONGRESSIONAL  
23 DISTRICTS IN CONFORMANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AND  
24 STATUTORY STANDARDS IF:

25 (1) THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION FAILS TO APPROVE A PLAN  
26 UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; OR

27 (2) A REGISTERED VOTER FILES A PETITION UNDER SUBSECTION (B)  
28 OF THIS SECTION.

29 (B) (1) ON THE ENACTMENT OF A LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT PLAN OR A  
30 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT PLAN, ANY REGISTERED VOTER IN THE STATE MAY FILE  
31 A PETITION WITH THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND TO BAR THE PLAN FROM

1 TAKING EFFECT ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PLAN VIOLATES THE MARYLAND  
2 CONSTITUTION, THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, OR A FEDERAL OR STATE  
3 STATUTE.

4 (2) THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION SHALL BE THE DEFENDANT IN  
5 A PETITION FILED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

6 (C) SUBJECT TO THE MARYLAND RULES, ANY REGISTERED VOTER OF THE  
7 STATE MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDING AS AN AMICUS CURIAE.

8 (D) (1) IF A PETITION IS FILED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION,  
9 THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND:

10 (I) SHALL SET DEADLINES FOR THE FILING OF PLEADINGS AND  
11 AMICUS CURIAE BRIEFS; AND

12 (II) MAY APPOINT A SPECIAL MASTER TO MAKE  
13 RECOMMENDATIONS.

14 (2) A SPECIAL MASTER APPOINTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
15 SUBSECTION SHALL:

16 (I) HOLD A HEARING;

17 (II) CONSIDER A PLAN APPROVED BY THE REDISTRICTING  
18 CONVENTION, IF ANY; AND

19 (III) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SUPREME COURT OF  
20 MARYLAND.

21 (3) WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD ESTABLISHED BY THE SUPREME  
22 COURT OF MARYLAND UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A PARTY MAY  
23 FILE EXCEPTIONS TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL MASTER.

24 (4) BEFORE ORDERING ANY RELIEF, THE SUPREME COURT OF  
25 MARYLAND SHALL:

26 (I) HOLD A HEARING;

27 (II) CONSIDER A PLAN APPROVED BY THE REDISTRICTING  
28 CONVENTION, IF ANY; AND

29 (III) CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OF A SPECIAL MASTER.



1           **(E) (1) THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND MAY ORDER ANY RELIEF**  
2 **CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE.**

3           **(2) IN ORDERING RELIEF:**

4                   **(I) IF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION ADOPTED AND**  
5 **CERTIFIED A PLAN, THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND MAY APPROVE, MODIFY,**  
6 **OR ADOPT A NEW PLAN; OR**

7                   **(II) IF THE REDISTRICTING CONVENTION HAS NOT ADOPTED**  
8 **AND CERTIFIED A PLAN, THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND SHALL ESTABLISH**  
9 **LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS ACCORDING TO THE**  
10 **STANDARDS SET FORTH IN THIS SUBTITLE AND ARTICLE III, §§ 3 AND 4 OF THE**  
11 **MARYLAND CONSTITUTION.**

12           **(F) THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO RULING**  
13 **ON A PETITION FILED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

14           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly  
15 determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this  
16 Act affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the Maryland  
17 Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not apply.

18           SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the  
19 Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified  
20 voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2026 for adoption or  
21 rejection in accordance with Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general  
22 election, the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on  
23 each ballot there shall be printed the words “For the Constitutional Amendment” and  
24 “Against the Constitutional Amendment”, as now provided by law. Immediately after the  
25 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed  
26 amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further  
27 proceedings held in accordance with Article XIV.

28           SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act is  
29 contingent on the passage of Section 1 of this Act, a constitutional amendment, and its  
30 ratification by the voters of the State.

31           SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of  
32 Section 5 of this Act, Section 2 of this Act shall take effect on the proclamation of the  
33 Governor that the constitutional amendment, having received a majority of the votes cast  
34 at the general election, has been adopted by the people of Maryland.