

HB2100/933420/1

BY: Delegate Hutchinson

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 2100
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute “**State Government – Elections Districts and Secession Straw Ballot**”; in line 6, strike “and”; and in line 8, after “plan” insert “; requiring that a question be placed on the ballot in Caroline County, Cecil County, Dorchester County, Kent County, Queen Anne’s County, Somerset County, Talbot County, Wicomico County, and Worcester County at the November general election of 2026 to determine the sense of the voters of those counties on the issue of whether the nine counties of the Eastern Shore should secede from the State of Maryland; providing for the carrying out of the straw ballot; and generally relating to elections in the State and the holding of a straw ballot in Eastern Shore counties”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, after line 18, insert:

“SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That under the provisions of the Election Law Article, the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Caroline County, Cecil County, Dorchester County, Kent County, Queen Anne’s County, Somerset County, Talbot County, Wicomico County, and Worcester County, in consultation with the State Board of Elections, shall prepare and include on the ballot for the November general election of 2026 the following question:

“Do you favor the legal secession of the nine Eastern Shore counties from the State of Maryland?”

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Caroline County, Cecil County, Dorchester County, Kent County, Queen

Anne’s County, Somerset County, Talbot County, Wicomico County, and Worcester County shall do those things necessary and proper to place this question on the ballot prepared for the November general election of 2026, so that each participating voter in each county may have the opportunity to cast a vote either “For Secession” or “Against Secession”. The question shall be proposed, presented, tallied, and reported in general accordance with the provisions of the Election Law Article. The vote on this question is advisory only.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section 3 of this Act, this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.”.