

HOUSE BILL 815

G1, L2, F3

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

6lr1735

By: **Delegate Hornberger**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Cecil County – County Council and Board of Education Elections –**
3 **Single-Member Districts**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring, beginning in a certain year, the election of a member of the
5 Cecil County Council to represent a specific residency district to be decided by a
6 plurality of the votes cast within that district; requiring the election of a member of
7 the Cecil County Board of Education from a county council residency district to be
8 decided by a plurality of the votes cast within that district; and generally relating to
9 Cecil County Council and Cecil County Board of Education election districts.

10 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution
11 Article XI–A – Local Legislation
12 Section 3A

13 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution
14 Article XI–A – Local Legislation
15 Section 3B

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Education
18 Section 3–4A–01
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

24 **Article XI–A – Local Legislation**

25 3A.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



[The] **SUBJECT TO SECTION 3B OF THIS ARTICLE, THE** charter for the government of any county governed by the provisions of this Article may provide for the election of members of the county council by the voters of councilmanic districts therein established, or by the voters of the entire county, or by a combination of these methods of election.

3B.

BEGINNING IN 2032, THE ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE CECIL COUNTY COUNCIL TO REPRESENT A SPECIFIC RESIDENCY DISTRICT SHALL BE DECIDED BY A PLURALITY OF THE VOTES CAST WITHIN THAT DISTRICT.

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

Article – Education

3–4A–01.

(a) The Cecil County Board consists of six members as follows:

(1) One voting member elected from each of the five [commissioner] **COUNTY COUNCIL RESIDENCY** districts **BY A PLURALITY OF THE VOTES CAST WITHIN THAT DISTRICT**; and

(2) One nonvoting student member.

(b) The five voting members of the county board shall be elected at a general election as required by subsection (c) of this section.

(c) (1) A member from a [county commissioner] **COUNTY COUNCIL RESIDENCY** district shall be a resident of the district.

(2) A member from a [county commissioner] **COUNTY COUNCIL RESIDENCY** district who no longer resides in the district may not continue as a member of the county board.

(3) A candidate elected to the county board shall be a registered voter and resident of Cecil County for at least 3 years.

(d) (1) Except as provided under subsection (e) of this section, each voting member serves for a term of 4 years beginning on the first Monday in December after the member's election and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

(2) A voting member may not serve for more than three terms.

(3) The Governor shall appoint a new member to fill any vacancy on the county board for the remainder of that term and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

(e) The terms of the voting members are staggered as follows:

(1) Members of the county board from [commissioner] COUNTY COUNCIL RESIDENCY districts 3, 4, and 5 shall be elected at the 2006 general election and every 4 years thereafter; and

(2) Members of the county board from [commissioner] COUNTY COUNCIL RESIDENCY districts 1 and 2 shall be elected at the 2008 general election and every 4 years thereafter.

(f) (1) The student member shall:

(i) Be an eleventh or twelfth grade student in the Cecil County public school system elected by the high school students of the county in accordance with procedures established by the school system;

(ii) Serve for 1 year beginning on July 1 after the election of the member;

(iii) Be a nonvoting member; and

(iv) Advise the county board on the thoughts and feelings of students.

(2) Unless invited to attend by an affirmative vote of a majority of the county board, the student member may not attend an executive session.

SECTION 3. 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 only one county and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the Maryland Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments apply.

SECTION 4. 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 2026 for adoption or rejection in accordance with 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 held in accordance with Article XIV.

1 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take
2 effect October 1, 2031.