

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.



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

6 3B.

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

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

12 Article – Education

13 3-4A-01.

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

18 (2) One nonvoting student member.

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

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

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

31 (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.

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

10 (f) (1) The student member shall:

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

16 (iii) Be a nonvoting member; and

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

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

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

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

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