

# HOUSE BILL 979

G1, P5

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

6lr2379

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By: **Delegates Hornberger and Stewart**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Constitutional Convention – Question on Ballot – Passage by Majority of**  
3 **Votes Cast**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the General Assembly to organize and hold a Convention to  
5 amend the State Constitution if a majority of the votes cast on the question of calling  
6 for a Convention, rather than a majority of voters voting at the election, are for the  
7 holding of a Convention; and prohibiting any changes or amendments to the State  
8 Constitution adopted by the Convention and submitted to the voters of the State  
9 from becoming effective unless the majority of votes cast on the question are in favor  
10 of the adoption, rather than the changes or amendments being adopted by a majority  
11 of the voters voting thereon.

12 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution  
13 Article XIV – Amendments to the Constitution  
14 Section 2

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

18 **Article XIV – Amendments to the Constitution**

19 2.

20 It shall be the duty of the General Assembly to provide by Law for taking, at the  
21 general election to be held in the year nineteen hundred and seventy, and every twenty  
22 years thereafter, the sense of the People in regard to calling a Convention for altering this  
23 Constitution; and if a majority of [voters] **THE VOTES CAST ON THE QUESTION OF**  
24 **CALLING A CONVENTION** at such election or elections [shall vote for] **ARE IN FAVOR OF**  
25 a Convention, the General Assembly, at its next session, shall provide by Law for the

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 assembling of such convention, and for the election of Delegates thereto. Each County, and  
2 Legislative District of the City of Baltimore, shall have in such Convention a number of  
3 Delegates equal to its representation in both Houses at the time at which the Convention  
4 is called. But any Constitution, or change, or amendment of the existing Constitution,  
5 which may be adopted by such Convention, shall be submitted to the voters of this State,  
6 and shall have no effect unless [the same shall have been adopted by a] **THE** majority of  
7 the [voters voting thereon] **VOTES CAST ON THE QUESTION ARE IN FAVOR OF THE**  
8 **ADOPTION.**

9       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly  
10 determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this  
11 Act affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the Maryland  
12 Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not apply.

13       SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the  
14 Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified  
15 voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2026 for adoption or  
16 rejection in accordance with Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general  
17 election, the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on  
18 each ballot there shall be printed the words “For the Constitutional Amendment” and  
19 “Against the Constitutional Amendment”, as now provided by law. Immediately after the  
20 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed  
21 amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further  
22 proceedings held in accordance with Article XIV.