

# HOUSE BILL 1178

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EMERGENCY BILL

6lr2994

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By: **Delegates Harrison and Toles**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Municipalities – Annexation – Limitations**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a municipality from annexing land that is located in a  
4 different legislative district than a legislative district in which the municipality is  
5 located without first obtaining the consent of certain members of the General  
6 Assembly; prohibiting a municipality from annexing land that is owned by the  
7 United States, the State, a political subdivision of the State, or a unit of the State or  
8 a political subdivision of the State, or a certain tax-exempt entity, unless the  
9 municipality first obtains the consent of the governmental entity or tax-exempt  
10 entity; and generally relating to municipal annexation.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Local Government  
13 Section 4-401  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2013 Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Local Government**

19 4-401.

20 (a) Subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the legislative body of a  
21 municipality may enlarge its boundaries by annexation as provided in this subtitle.

22 (b) The power of annexation applies only to land that:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) is contiguous and adjoining to the existing boundaries of the  
2 municipality; and

3 (2) does not create an unincorporated area that is bounded on all sides by:

4 (i) real property presently in the boundaries of the municipality;

5 (ii) real property proposed to be in the boundaries of the municipality  
6 as a result of the proposed annexation; or

7 (iii) any combination of real property described in item (i) or (ii) of  
8 this item.

9 (c) A municipality may not annex land that is:

10 (1) in another municipality;

11 (2) **LOCATED IN A DIFFERENT LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT THAN A**  
12 **LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY OR ANY PART OF THE**  
13 **MUNICIPALITY IS LOCATED WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE CONSENT OF THE**  
14 **MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE DISTRICT IN**  
15 **WHICH THE LAND IS LOCATED;**

16 (3) **OWNED BY THE UNITED STATES, THE STATE, A POLITICAL**  
17 **SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE, OR A UNIT OF THE STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**  
18 **OF THE STATE, WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL**  
19 **ENTITY THAT OWNS THE LAND; OR**

20 (4) **OWNED BY AN ENTITY THAT IS EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL INCOME**  
21 **TAXES UNDER § 501 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING**  
22 **THE CONSENT OF THE ENTITY.**

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
24 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has  
25 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to  
26 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is  
27 enacted.