

# HOUSE BILL 1178

L3

EMERGENCY BILL

6lr2994

---

By: **Delegates Harrison and Toles**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

---

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2026

---

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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~~ notifying certain members of the  
6 General Assembly in a certain manner; ~~prohibiting a municipality from annexing~~  
7 ~~land that is owned by the United States, the State, a political subdivision of the~~  
8 ~~State, or a unit of the State or a political subdivision of the State, or a certain~~  
9 ~~tax exempt entity, unless the municipality first obtains the consent of the~~  
10 ~~governmental entity or tax exempt entity~~; and generally relating to municipal  
11 annexation.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Local Government  
14 Section 4–401  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2013 Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Local Government**

20 4–401.

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 (1) in another municipality; OR

14 (2) LOCATED IN A DIFFERENT LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT THAN A  
15 LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY OR ANY PART OF THE  
16 MUNICIPALITY IS LOCATED WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE CONSENT OF  
17 NOTIFYING THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR  
18 THE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE LAND IS LOCATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION  
19 (D) OF THIS SECTION;

20 ~~(3) OWNED BY THE UNITED STATES, THE STATE, A POLITICAL~~  
21 ~~SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE, OR A UNIT OF THE STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION~~  
22 ~~OF THE STATE, WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL~~  
23 ~~ENTITY THAT OWNS THE LAND; OR~~

24 ~~(4) OWNED BY AN ENTITY THAT IS EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL INCOME~~  
25 ~~TAXES UNDER § 501 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING~~  
26 ~~THE CONSENT OF THE ENTITY.~~

27 (D) AFTER AN ANNEXATION RESOLUTION IS INTRODUCED, THE  
28 MUNICIPALITY SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
29 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE LAND IS LOCATED BY:

30 (1) ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION; AND

31 (2) UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.

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

Approved:

---

Governor.

---

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

---

President of the Senate.