

SENATE BILL 848

G1

4lr1563

By: **Senators Kittleman, Kasemeyer, and Robey**
Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Local Petitions – Advance Determination of Sufficiency of**
3 **Local Legislation Summary**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a chief election official of an election authority who is
5 determining the sufficiency of the format of a certain petition to determine the
6 sufficiency of any summary of local legislation that is contained in the petition;
7 requiring, under certain circumstances, the chief election official to provide the
8 sponsor of a petition with an explanation of the reasons for a certain
9 determination; and generally relating to notices of deficiencies in the
10 information pages of local petitions.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Election Law
13 Section 6–202
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Election Law**

19 6–202.

20 (a) The format of the petition prepared by a sponsor may be submitted to the
21 chief election official of the appropriate election authority, in advance of filing the
22 petition, for a determination of its sufficiency.

23 **(B) (1) WHEN DETERMINING THE SUFFICIENCY UNDER SUBSECTION**
24 **(A) OF THIS SECTION OF A PETITION THAT SEEKS TO PLACE A QUESTION**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 REGARDING LOCAL LEGISLATION ON A BALLOT, THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICIAL
2 OF THE APPROPRIATE ELECTION AUTHORITY SHALL DETERMINE THE
3 SUFFICIENCY OF ANY SUMMARY OF THE LOCAL LEGISLATION THAT IS
4 CONTAINED IN THE PETITION.

5 (2) IF THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICIAL OF THE APPROPRIATE
6 ELECTION AUTHORITY DETERMINES THAT THE SUMMARY OF LOCAL
7 LEGISLATION IS INSUFFICIENT, THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICIAL SHALL PROVIDE
8 THE SPONSOR WITH AN EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS FOR THE
9 DETERMINATION.

10 [(b)] (C) In making the determination, the chief election official may seek
11 the advice of the legal authority.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 June 1, 2014.