

SENATE BILL 594

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

8lr1699
CF HB 532

By: **Senators Pinsky, Astle, Benson, Conway, Currie, DeGrange, Feldman, Ferguson, Guzzone, Kasemeyer, King, Klausmeier, Lee, Madaleno, Manno, Mathias, McFadden, Middleton, Miller, Muse, Nathan–Pulliam, Oaks, Peters, Ramirez, Robinson, Rosapepe, Smith, Young, Zirkin, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elective Franchise – Registration and Voting at Precinct Polling Place**

3 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to authorize
4 the General Assembly to allow a qualified individual to register and vote at a precinct
5 polling place on Election Day; making a stylistic change; and submitting this
6 amendment to the qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection.

7 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution
8 Article I – Elective Franchise
9 Section 1 and 2

10 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution
11 Article I – Elective Franchise
12 Section 2A

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

16 **Article I – Elective Franchise**

17 1.

18 All elections shall be by ballot. Except as provided in **SECTION 2A OR** Section 3 of
19 this article, every citizen of the United States, of the age of 18 years or upwards, who is a
20 resident of the State as of the time for the closing of registration next preceding the election,
21 shall be entitled to vote in the ward or election district in which the citizen resides at all

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 elections to be held in this State. A person once entitled to vote in any election district, shall
2 be entitled to vote there until the person shall have acquired a residence in another election
3 district or ward in this State.

4 2.

5 **[The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 2A OF THIS ARTICLE, THE** General
6 Assembly shall provide by law for a uniform Registration of the names of all the voters in
7 this State, who possess the qualifications prescribed in this Article, which Registration
8 shall be conclusive evidence to the Judges of Election of the right of every person, thus
9 registered, to vote at any election thereafter held in this State; but no person shall vote, at
10 any election, Federal or State, hereafter to be held in this State, or at any municipal election
11 in the City of Baltimore, unless **[his] THE PERSON'S** name appears in the list of registered
12 voters; the names of all persons shall be added to the list of qualified voters by the officers
13 of Registration, who have the qualifications prescribed in the first section of this Article,
14 and who are not disqualified under the provisions of the second and third sections thereof.

15 **2A.**

16 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO ALLOW A QUALIFIED**
17 **INDIVIDUAL TO REGISTER AND VOTE AT A PRECINCT POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION**
18 **DAY.**

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

23 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the
24 Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified
25 voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2018 for adoption or
26 rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election,
27 the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on each
28 ballot there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against
29 the Constitutional Amendment", as now provided by law. Immediately after the election,
30 all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed
31 amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further
32 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.