

HOUSE BILL 1491

G1

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

0lr2930

By: Delegates Malone, Adams, Anderton, Arentz, Arikan, Bagnall, Beitzel, Boteler, Buckel, Cain, Carr, Chisholm, Ciliberti, Clark, Corderman, Cox, Dumais, M. Fisher, Fraser–Hidalgo, Ghrist, Grammer, Griffith, Guyton, Hartman, Henson, Hill, Hornberger, Howard, Impallaria, Jacobs, Jalisi, Kelly, Kipke, Kittleman, Korman, Krebs, Lehman, Lierman, Lisanti, Long, Lopez, Love, Mangione, Mautz, McComas, McKay, Metzgar, Miller, Moon, Morgan, Otto, Parrott, Pippy, Qi, Reilly, Rose, Saab, Shetty, Shoemaker, Solomon, Stewart, Szeliga, Valentino–Smith, Wilkins, and Wivell

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Congressional Districts – Standards**
3 **(Anti–Gerrymandering of Maryland’s Congressional Districts)**

4 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to require
5 congressional districts to conform to certain standards and that due regard be given
6 to certain boundaries; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the
7 State for their adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution
9 New Article XX – Congressional Districts
10 Section 1

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

14 **ARTICLE XX – CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS**

15 **1.**

16 **EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SHALL CONSIST OF ADJOINING TERRITORY,**
17 **BE COMPACT IN FORM, AND BE OF SUBSTANTIALLY EQUAL POPULATION. DUE**
18 **REGARD SHALL BE GIVEN TO NATURAL BOUNDARIES AND THE BOUNDARIES OF**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.**

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

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the
7 Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified
8 voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2020 for adoption or
9 rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election,
10 the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on each
11 ballot there shall be printed the words “For the Constitutional Amendment” and “Against
12 the Constitutional Amendment”, as now provided by law. Immediately after the election,
13 all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed
14 amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further
15 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.