

# SENATE BILL 55

P1

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
**ENROLLED BILL**

(11r0973)

— *Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/Rules and Executive Nominations* —  
Introduced by **Senator Sydnor**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Legislative Department – Eligibility to Serve as Senators and Delegates – Place**  
3 **of Abode**

4 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to establish  
5 that a person is eligible to serve as a Senator or Delegate if, *beginning on a certain*  
6 *date*, the person has maintained a *primary* place of abode for a certain period of time  
7 under certain circumstances in the district that the person has been chosen to  
8 represent; making stylistic changes; and submitting this amendment to the qualified  
9 voters of the State for their adoption or rejection.

10 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution  
11 Article III – Legislative Department  
12 Section 9

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**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.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.*



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

4 **Article III – Legislative Department**

5 9.

6 A person is eligible to serve as a Senator or Delegate, who on the date of [his] **THE**  
7 **PERSON’S** election, (1) is a citizen of the State of Maryland, (2) has resided therein for at  
8 least one year next preceding that date, and (3) if the district [which he] **THAT THE**  
9 **PERSON** has been chosen to represent has been established for at least six months prior to  
10 the date of [his] **THE PERSON’S** election, has resided ~~AND MAINTAINED A PLACE OF~~  
11 ~~ABODE~~ in that district for six months next preceding that date **AND, BEGINNING**  
12 **JANUARY 1, 2024, HAS MAINTAINED A PRIMARY PLACE OF ABODE IN THAT DISTRICT**  
13 **FOR SIX MONTHS NEXT PRECEDING THAT DATE.**

14 If the district [which] **THAT** the person has been chosen to represent has been  
15 established less than six months prior to the date of [his] **THE PERSON’S** election, then in  
16 addition to (1) and (2) above, [he] **THE PERSON** shall have resided ~~AND MAINTAINED A~~  
17 ~~PLACE OF ABODE~~ in the district for as long as it has been established **AND, BEGINNING**  
18 **JANUARY 1, 2024, SHALL HAVE MAINTAINED A PRIMARY PLACE OF ABODE IN THE**  
19 **DISTRICT FOR AS LONG AS IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.**

20 A person is eligible to serve as a Senator, if [he] **THE PERSON** has attained the age  
21 of twenty-five years, or as a Delegate, if [he] **THE PERSON** has attained the age of  
22 twenty-one years, on the date of [his] **THE PERSON’S** election.

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

27 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the  
28 Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified  
29 voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2022 for adoption or  
30 rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election,  
31 the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on each  
32 ballot there shall be printed the words “For the Constitutional Amendment” and “Against  
33 the Constitutional Amendment”, as now provided by law. Immediately after the election,  
34 all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed  
35 amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further  
36 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.