

SENATE BILL 773

P5

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

1lr1969

By: **Senator Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2021

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Constitutional Amendment – General Assembly – Standing Committee**
3 **Appointments**

4 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution that requires
5 each chamber of the General Assembly to designate its highest elected member
6 within each party to appoint their party’s members to standing committees in a
7 certain manner; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State
8 for their adoption or rejection.

9 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution
10 Article III – Legislative Department
11 Section 19

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

15 **Article III – Legislative Department**

16 19.

17 Each House shall be judge of the qualifications and elections of its members, as
18 prescribed by the Constitution and Laws of the State, and shall appoint its own officers,
19 **DESIGNATE ITS HIGHEST ELECTED MEMBER WITHIN EACH PARTY TO APPOINT**
20 **THEIR PARTY’S MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEES IN A MANNER THAT**
21 **REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF EACH HOUSE**, determine the rules of its own proceedings,
22 punish a member for disorderly or disrespectful behaviour and with the consent of
23 two-thirds of its whole number of members elected, expel a member; but no member shall
24 be expelled a second time for the same offence.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

5 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the
6 Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified
7 voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2022 for adoption or
8 rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election,
9 the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on each
10 ballot there shall be printed the words “For the Constitutional Amendment” and “Against
11 the Constitutional Amendment”, as now provided by law. Immediately after the election,
12 all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed
13 amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further
14 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.