

HOUSE BILL 37

K3

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
(PRE-FILED)

5lr1029

By: **Delegate Vogel**

Requested: October 1, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Declaration of Rights – Right to Organize**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing every person employed in the State has the fundamental
4 right to organize and bargain collectively concerning compensation, hours, and other
5 terms and conditions of employment; and prohibiting the State from, directly or
6 indirectly, denying, burdening, or abridging the right unless justified by a compelling
7 State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

8 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution
9 Declaration of Rights
10 Article 49

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 **Declaration of Rights**

15 **ARTICLE 49.**

16 **THAT EVERY PERSON EMPLOYED IN THE STATE HAS THE FUNDAMENTAL**
17 **RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY CONCERNING COMPENSATION,**
18 **HOURS, AND OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE STATE MAY**
19 **NOT, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, DENY, BURDEN, OR ABRIDGE THE RIGHT UNLESS**
20 **JUSTIFIED BY A COMPELLING STATE INTEREST ACHIEVED BY THE LEAST**
21 **RESTRICTIVE MEANS.**

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly
23 determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Act affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the Maryland
2 Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not apply.

3 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the
4 Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified
5 voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2026 for adoption or
6 rejection in accordance with Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general
7 election, the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on
8 each ballot there shall be printed the words “For the Constitutional Amendment” and
9 “Against the Constitutional Amendment”, as now provided by law. Immediately after the
10 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed
11 amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further
12 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.