

# HOUSE BILL 688

L6, L3  
HB 1226/21 – ENT

3lr2127

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By: **Delegates S. Johnson and A. Johnson**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Municipal Incorporation – County Commissioners or County Council –**  
3 **Required Approval of Referendum Request**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the county commissioners or county council to approve a  
5 certain referendum request if a valid petition to incorporate an area as a  
6 municipality is presented by a certain percentage of the registered voters who are  
7 residents of the area proposed to be incorporated; and generally relating to the  
8 incorporation of municipalities.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – Local Government  
11 Section 4–202  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2013 Volume and 2022 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – Local Government  
16 Section 4–207  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2013 Volume and 2022 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Local Government**

22 4–202.

23 This subtitle governs municipal incorporation.

24 4–207.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OR COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL APPROVE**  
2 **THE REFERENDUM REQUEST IF A VALID PETITION IS PRESENTED BY NOT LESS THAN**  
3 **40% OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE AREA PROPOSED TO**  
4 **BE INCORPORATED.**

5           **[(a)] (B)** (1) If the county commissioners or county council approves the  
6 referendum request, between 40 and 60 days after it receives the proposed municipal  
7 charter, the county commissioners or county council shall specify, by resolution, the day  
8 and hours for a vote on the proposed incorporation by the voters of the area to be  
9 incorporated.

10           (2) The resolution shall include the exact text of the proposed municipal  
11 charter as submitted by the organizing committee.

12           **[(b)] (C)** (1) If the county commissioners or county council rejects the  
13 referendum request, the county commissioners or county council shall:

14                           (i) provide in writing and make available to the public within a  
15 reasonable time the reasons for the rejection; and

16                           (ii) establish reasonable procedures by which the county  
17 commissioners or county council shall reconsider a referendum request, including an  
18 opportunity for a public hearing with sufficient advance public notice.

19           (2) After the hearing and reconsideration process is completed, the county  
20 commissioners or county council, by resolution, shall affirm the rejection or approve the  
21 referendum request.

22           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 October 1, 2023.