

SENATE BILL 161

P5

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

5lr0769

By: **Senator Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly – Legislators’ Right to Vote Act**

3 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution prohibiting a
4 member of the General Assembly from being expelled from or denied voting rights
5 on the standing committee on which the member serves except under certain
6 circumstances; making a conforming change; submitting an amendment to the
7 Maryland Constitution to the qualified voters of the State for their adoption or
8 rejection; providing for the effective dates of this Act; providing for the termination
9 of certain provisions of this Act under certain circumstances; making certain stylistic
10 changes; and generally relating to standing committee members in the General
11 Assembly.

12 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution
13 Article III – Legislative Department
14 Section 19

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – State Government
17 Section 2–1101
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2014 Replacement Volume)

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

23 **Article III – Legislative Department**

24 19.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) appointing officers of committees; and

2 (3) setting the dates, times, and places for committee meetings.

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

7 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the
8 Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified
9 voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2016 for their
10 adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general
11 election, the vote on this proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and
12 upon each ballot there shall be printed the words “For the Constitutional Amendment” and
13 “Against the Constitutional Amendment,” as now provided by law. Immediately after the
14 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed
15 amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further
16 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.

17 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take
18 effect on the taking effect of Section 1 of this Act. If Section 1 of this Act does not take
19 effect, Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

20 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in
21 Sections 3, 4, and 5 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.