

# SENATE BILL 92

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

8lr1162

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By: **Senators Raskin, Frosh, Kelley, King, Kittleman, Kramer, Lenett, Madaleno, Muse, Peters, Pinsky, Pugh, Robey, Simonaire, Stoltzfus, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2008

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elective Franchise – Youth Voter Registration and Participation in Elections**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain citizens who are less than 18 years old to  
4 register to vote; authorizing certain citizens who are less than 18 years old to  
5 vote in certain elections under certain circumstances; making stylistic changes;  
6 and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland  
7 for their adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution

9 Article I – Elective Franchise

10 Section 1

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

14 **Article I – Elective Franchise**

15 1.

16 (A) All elections shall be by ballot.

17 (B) Every citizen of the United States, of the age of [18] **16** years or upwards,  
18 who is a resident of the State, **SHALL BE ENTITLED TO REGISTER TO VOTE.**

19 (C) **EVERY CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, OF THE AGE OF 17 YEARS**  
20 **OR UPWARDS, WHO IS A REGISTERED VOTER OF THE STATE** as of the time for the  
21 closing of registration **FOR THE** next [preceding the] **PRIMARY** election, shall be

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 entitled to vote **IN THAT PRIMARY ELECTION, PROVIDED THE CITIZEN IS 18**  
2 **YEARS OR UPWARDS AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION**, in the ward  
3 or election district in which [he] **THE CITIZEN** resides [at] **AND FOR** all elections  
4 **THEREAFTER THAT ARE** to be held in this State.

5 (D) A person once entitled to vote in any election district, shall be entitled to  
6 vote there until [he] **THE PERSON** shall have acquired a residence in another election  
7 district or ward in this State.

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

13 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section  
14 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the  
15 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in  
16 November, 2008 for their adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the  
17 Maryland Constitution. At that general election, the vote on this proposed amendment  
18 to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the  
19 words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional  
20 Amendment," as now provided by law. Immediately after the election, all returns shall  
21 be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as  
22 directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further proceedings had in  
23 accordance with Article XIV.