

# SENATE BILL 514

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

9lr1537

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By: **Senators Lenett, Raskin, Conway, Frosh, Garagiola, Gladden, Harrington, King, Klausmeier, Madaleno, Middleton, Muse, Peters, Pinsky, Pugh, and Stone**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2009

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elective Franchise – Registration and Voting on Election Day**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the General Assembly to provide by suitable  
4 enactment a process to allow a qualified voter to register and vote on election  
5 day at a certain polling place in a certain precinct; making a stylistic change;  
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 and 2

11 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution  
12 Article I – Elective Franchise  
13 Section 2A

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

17 **Article I – Elective Franchise**

18 1.

19 All elections shall be by ballot. Except as provided in **SECTION 2A OR** Section 3  
20 of this article, every citizen of the United States, of the age of 18 years or upwards,  
21 who is a resident of the State as of the time for the closing of registration next  
22 preceding the election, shall be entitled to vote in the ward or election district in which  
23 the citizen resides at all elections to be held in this State. A person once entitled to

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 vote in any election district, shall be entitled to vote there until the person shall have  
2 acquired a residence in another election district or ward in this State.

3 2.

4 [The] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 2A OF THIS ARTICLE, THE**  
5 General Assembly shall provide by law for a uniform Registration of the names of all  
6 the voters in this State, who possess the qualifications prescribed in this Article, which  
7 Registration shall be conclusive evidence to the Judges of Election of the right of every  
8 person, thus registered, to vote at any election thereafter held in this State; but no  
9 person shall vote, at any election, Federal or State, hereafter to be held in this State,  
10 or at any municipal election in the City of Baltimore, unless [his] **THE PERSON'S**  
11 name appears in the list of registered voters; the names of all persons shall be added  
12 to the list of qualified voters by the officers of Registration, who have the qualifications  
13 prescribed in the first section of this Article, and who are not disqualified under the  
14 provisions of the second and third sections thereof.

15 **2A.**

16 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO PROVIDE BY**  
17 **SUITABLE ENACTMENT A PROCESS TO ALLOW A QUALIFIED VOTER TO**  
18 **REGISTER AND VOTE ON ELECTION DAY AT THE POLLING PLACE IN THE**  
19 **PRECINCT IN WHICH THE VOTER RESIDES.**

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

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section  
26 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the  
27 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in  
28 November, 2010 for their adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the  
29 Maryland Constitution. At that general election, the vote on this proposed amendment  
30 to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the  
31 words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional  
32 Amendment," as now provided by law. Immediately after the election, all returns shall  
33 be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as  
34 directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further proceedings had in  
35 accordance with Article XIV.