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By: **Senators Colburn and Stoltzfus**  
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 1998  
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Eastern Shore - Secession From Maryland - Straw Ballot**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a question be placed on the ballot in Caroline  
4 County, Cecil County, Dorchester County, Kent County, Queen Anne's County,  
5 Somerset County, Talbot County, Wicomico County, and Worcester County at the  
6 November general election of 1998 to determine the sense of the voters of those  
7 counties on the issue of whether the nine counties of the Eastern Shore should  
8 secede from the State of Maryland; providing for the carrying out of the straw  
9 ballot; and generally relating to the holding of a straw ballot in Eastern Shore  
10 counties.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
12 MARYLAND, That under the provisions of Article 33 - Election Code of the  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland, the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Caroline  
14 County, Cecil County, Dorchester County, Kent County, Queen Anne's County,  
15 Somerset County, Talbot County, Wicomico County, and Worcester County, in  
16 consultation with the State Board of Elections, shall prepare and include on the ballot  
17 for the November general election of 1998 the following question:

18 "Do you favor the legal secession of the nine Eastern Shore counties from the  
19 State of Maryland?"

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Board of Supervisors  
21 of Elections of Caroline County, Cecil County, Dorchester County, Kent County, Queen  
22 Anne's County, Somerset County, Talbot County, Wicomico County, and Worcester  
23 County shall do those things necessary and proper to place this question on the ballot  
24 prepared for the November general election of 1998, so that each participating voter  
25 in each county may have the opportunity to cast a vote either "For Secession" or  
26 "Against Secession". The question shall be proposed, presented, tallied, and reported  
27 in general accordance with the provisions of Article 33 of the Annotated Code. The  
28 vote on this question is advisory only.

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
30 July 1, 1998.