

HOUSE BILL 1209

P5, G1

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

6lr0990

By: **Delegates Vogt, S. Howard, Malone, Miele, Morgan, and Parrott**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2016

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly – Limitation of Terms**

3 FOR the purpose of limiting the number of consecutive terms as either a Senator or a
4 Delegate to which a person may be elected; limiting the total number of terms as a
5 member of the General Assembly to which a person may be elected; specifying how
6 service for a certain partial term shall be considered for purposes of the term limits;
7 making stylistic changes; generally relating to limiting the number of terms
8 members of the General Assembly may serve; and submitting this amendment to the
9 qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection.

10 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution
11 Article III – Legislative Department
12 Section 6

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

16 **Article III – Legislative Department**

17 6.

18 (A) A member of the General Assembly shall be elected by the registered voters of
19 the legislative or delegate district from which [he] **THE MEMBER** seeks election, to serve
20 for a term of four years beginning on the second Wednesday of January following [his] **THE**
21 **MEMBER’S** election.

22 (B) (1) **A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN ELECTED TO THREE CONSECUTIVE**
23 **TERMS AS EITHER A SENATOR OR A DELEGATE SHALL BE INELIGIBLE TO BE**
24 **ELECTED TO SERVE A FOURTH CONSECUTIVE TERM IN THE SAME OFFICE.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) FOR PURPOSES OF THE LIMITATION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, IF**
2 **A PERSON HAS SERVED MORE THAN THREE YEARS OF A TERM AS A SENATOR OR A**
3 **DELEGATE TO WHICH ANOTHER PERSON WAS ELECTED, THAT PERSON SHALL BE**
4 **CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO A FULL TERM.**

5 **(C) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT BE ELECTED TO A TOTAL OF MORE THAN FIVE**
6 **TERMS AS A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHETHER OR NOT THE TERMS**
7 **ARE SERVED CONSECUTIVELY.**

8 **(2) FOR PURPOSES OF THE LIMITATION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, IF**
9 **A PERSON HAS SERVED MORE THAN THREE YEARS OF A TERM AS A MEMBER OF THE**
10 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO WHICH ANOTHER PERSON WAS ELECTED, THAT PERSON**
11 **SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO A FULL TERM.**

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

16 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section
17 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the
18 qualified voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2016 for
19 their adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that
20 general election, the vote on this proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by
21 ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional
22 Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional Amendment," as now provided by law.
23 Immediately after the election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and
24 against the proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution,
25 and further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.