SENATE BILL 1115

A BILL ENTITLED

1   AN ACT concerning

2   **Members of the General Assembly – Responsibilities and Eligibility to Vote**

3   FOR the purpose of requiring, under certain circumstances, the presiding officer of a
4   House of the General Assembly to appoint each member to a standing
5   committee; providing that a member is eligible to vote on certain matters in the
6   member's standing committee and in the House in which the member serves;
7   prohibiting a member from voting on certain matters under certain
8   circumstances; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the
9   State for their adoption or rejection.

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

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

16   **Article III – Legislative Department**

17   19.

18   **(A)**   Each House shall be judge of the qualifications and elections of its
19   members, as prescribed by the Constitution and Laws of the State, and shall appoint
20   its own officers, determine the rules of its own proceedings, punish a member for
21   disorderly or disrespectful behaviour and with the consent of two–thirds of its whole
22   number of members elected, expel a member; but no member shall be expelled a
23   second time for the same offence.

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1   **(B)   IF A PRESIDING OFFICER OF A HOUSE ESTABLISHES STANDING**
2   **COMMITTEES TO HEAR, CONSIDER, AND ACT ON LEGISLATION OR OTHER**
3   **MATTERS, THE PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL APPOINT EACH MEMBER OF THAT**
4   **HOUSE AS A MEMBER OF AT LEAST ONE STANDING COMMITTEE.**

5   **(C)   SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, A MEMBER IS**
6   **ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE AND VOTE ON ANY LEGISLATION OR OTHER MATTER**
7   **THAT IS CONSIDERED BY:**

8   **(1)   THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WHICH THE MEMBER SERVES;**
9   **AND**

10   **(2)   THE HOUSE IN WHICH THE MEMBER SERVES.**

11   **(D)   A MEMBER MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN OR VOTE ON ANY**
12   **LEGISLATION OR OTHER MATTER THAT IS PROHIBITED UNDER:**

13   **(1)   A LAW ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; OR**

14   **(2)   A REGULATION ADOPTED BY AN ETHICS BODY TO WHICH THE**
15   **MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ARE SUBJECT.**

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

21   SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the aforegoing section
22   proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the
23   qualified voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2014
24   for their adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution.
25   At that general election, the vote on this proposed amendment to the Constitution
26   shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the words "For the
27   Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional Amendment," as now
28   provided by law. Immediately after the election, all returns shall be made to the
29   Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as directed by Article
30   XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further proceedings had in accordance with
31   Article XIV.