

## CHAPTER 121

*Ratified*

(Senate Bill 7)

AN ACT to propose an amendment to Section 38 of Article III of the Constitution of Maryland, title "Legislative Department", amending the provision concerning imprisonment for debt in order to provide that a valid decree of a court of competent jurisdiction or agreement approved by decree of said court for the support of an illegitimate child or children shall not constitute a debt within the meaning of this section; and providing for the submission of this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for adoption or rejection.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, (three-fifths of all the members of each of the two houses concurring), That the following amendment be and the same is hereby proposed to Section 38 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Maryland, the same, if adopted by the legal and qualified voters of the State, as herewith provided, to become Section 38 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Maryland.

## 38. Imprisonment for Debt.

No person shall be imprisoned for debt, but a valid decree of a court of competent jurisdiction or agreement approved by decree of said court for the support of a wife or dependent children, *or for the support of an illegitimate child or children*, or for alimony, shall not constitute a debt within the meaning of this section.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the foregoing amendment to the Constitution of the State of Maryland shall, at the election to be held in November, 1962, be submitted to the legal and qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection, in pursuance of the directions contained in Article 14 of the Constitution of the State of Maryland, and at the same general election the vote on the said proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the words: "For Constitutional Amendment" and "Against Constitutional Amendment", as now provided by law, and immediately after said election due returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as directed by said Fourteenth Article of the Constitution, and further proceedings had in accordance with said Article 14.

Approved April 6, 1962.

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EXPLANATION: *Italics indicate new matter added to existing law.*  
 [Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.  
 CAPITALS indicate amendments to bill.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken out of bill.