

XI-A, title "Local Legislation," to follow immediately after Section 1 thereof, establishing an alternate procedure for any county, to submit to its voters the question of adopting charter form of government, and providing for the submission of this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, (three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two houses concurring), That the following section be and the same is hereby proposed as an amendment to Article XI-A of the Constitution of Maryland, title "Local Legislation," by adding new Section 1A thereto, to follow immediately after Section 1 thereof, the same, if adopted by the legally qualified voters of the State, to become a part of the Constitution of Maryland:*

#### Article XI-A

##### 1A.

The procedure provided in this section for adoption of a charter may be used in any county in lieu of the procedures provided in Section 1 of this Article, and a charter adopted pursuant to this section has the effect of a charter adopted in accordance with the provisions of Section 1. The board of county commissioners of any county at any time may appoint a charter board. Said charter board shall be registered voters and shall consist of an uneven number of members, not fewer than five or more than nine. The board of county commissioners shall appoint a charter board within thirty days after receiving a petition signed by five percent of the registered voters of the county or by ten thousand voters of the county, whichever is the lesser number. If additional charter board members are nominated by petitions signed by three percent of the registered voters of the county or by two thousand registered voters, whichever is the lesser number, delivered to the board of county commissioners within sixty days after the charter board is appointed, the board of county commissioners shall call a special election not less than thirty or more than ninety days after receiving petitions, unless a regular election falls within the designated period. The appointees of the board of county commissioners and those nominated by petitions shall be placed on the ballot in alphabetical order without party designation. The voters may cast votes for, and elect a number of nominees equal to the number of charter board members originally selected by the board of county commissioners, and those so elected