

CHAPTER 192

(House Bill 271)

AN ACT to propose an amendment to Section 1 of Article 11A of the Constitution of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Local Legislation," extending the time during which a charter board under the home rule provisions for counties may prepare a charter or form of government, and correcting errors therein, and providing for the submission of this amendment to the qualified voters of the State for 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 Section 1 of Article 11A of the Constitution of Maryland, title "Local Legislation," the same, if adopted by the legally qualified voters of the State, as herein provided, to become a part of the Constitution of Maryland:

1.

On demand of the Mayor of Baltimore and City Council of the City of Baltimore, or on petition bearing the signatures of not less than 20% of the registered voters of said City or any County (Provided, however, that in any case 10,000 signatures shall be sufficient to complete a petition), the Board of Election Supervisors of said City or County shall provide at the next general or congressional election, occurring after such demand or the filing of such petition, for the election of a charter board of eleven registered voters of said City or five registered voters in any such Counties. Nominations for members for said charter board may be made not less than forty days prior to said election by the Mayor of Baltimore and City Council of the City of Baltimore or the County Commissioners of such County, or not less than twenty days prior to said election by petition bearing the signatures written in their own handwriting (and not by their mark) of not less than 5% of the registered voters of the said City of Baltimore or said County; provided, that in any case Two thousand signatures of registered voters shall be sufficient to complete any such nominating petition, and if not more than eleven registered voters of the City of Baltimore or not more than five registered voters in any such County are so nominated their names shall not be printed on the ballot, but said eleven registered voters in the City of Baltimore or five in such County shall constitute said charter board from and after the date of said election. At said election the ballot shall contain the names of said nominees in alphabetical order without any indication of the source of their nomination, and shall also be so arranged as to permit the voter to vote for or against the creation of said charter board, but the vote cast against said creation shall not be held to bar the voter from expressing his choice among the nominees for said board, and if the majority of the votes cast for and against the creation of said charter board shall be against said creation the election of the members of said charter board shall be void; but if such majority shall be in favor of the creation of said charter board, then and in that event the eleven nominees of the City of Baltimore or five nominees in the County receiving the largest number of votes shall constitute the charter board, and said charter board, or a major-