

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

A Constitutional Amendment (Chapter 363, Acts of 1972) ratified by the people on November 7, 1972 divided the State of Maryland into forty-seven districts for the election of the 188 members of the Senate and the House of Delegates. Each Legislative District elects one Senator and three Delegates, for a total of forty-seven Senators and one hundred and forty-one Delegates. Each district may be divided into three Delegate subdistricts or one multi-member Delegate subdistrict. Each district must consist of adjoining territory, be compact in form, and of equal population (Const. 1867, Art. III, secs. 1-4). Any district which contains more than two counties or parts of more than two counties, and where the Delegates are elected at large by the voters of the entire district, no county, or part of a county, is allowed to have more than one resident Delegate. The descriptions of the legislative districts are to the geographical boundaries which existed on March 15, 1974.

The Governor must present a legislative districting plan to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates not later than the first day of the regular session of the General Assembly in the third year following the decennial census. His plan must be introduced as a joint resolution, and the General Assembly must hold public hearings on the proposal.

The General Assembly may present a plan of its own. Unless it adopts no legislative districting plan by the forty-fifth day after the opening of the regular session in the third year following the decennial census, then the Governor's plan becomes law.

Pursuant to Article III, Section 5 of the Constitution, the Governor presented his legislative districting plan to the General Assembly and it became law on February 24, 1973. Since it was declared not to have been prepared in conformity with the "public hearings" requirement, the Court of Appeals invalidated it on July 31, 1973. The Court of Appeals then established new boundaries for the forty-seven legislative districts by an order dated March 15, 1974 (Misc. Nos. 5 and 6, September Term, 1972, and Misc. Nos. 1-4, 7-13, September Term, 1973). The new boundaries are as follows:

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 1

Garrett County and Allegany County Election Districts 5-15, 17-20, 22-32, 34 and 35.

Subdistrict 1A

1 Delegate

Garrett County and Allegany County Election Districts 9, 10, 15, 18, 19, 25 and 27.

Subdistrict 1B

2 Delegates

Allegany County Election Districts 5-8, 11-14, 17, 20, 22-24, 26, 28-32, 34 and 35.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 2

Allegany County Election Districts 1-4, 16, 21 and 33; and Washington County Election Districts 2-5, 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20-26.