

Senate Calendar No.
Introduced by Mr. Norris.

House Calendar No

House Calendar OK

123 a

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*This Act in the order of its
approval is
Number 192*

SENATE BILL No. 291

CHAPTER No. *227*

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Maryland by adding thereto a new Article to be numbered "Article XVII," entitled "Quadrennial Elections," the same providing that all State officers, except Judges and all county officers elected by qualified voters shall be elected in every fourth year for terms of four years; and adjusting terms of State and county appointive officers; and providing that all provisions of the Constitution inconsistent with the provisions of this Article be repealed to the extent of such inconsistency; and providing for the submission of said amendment to the qualified voters of the State for adoption or rejection.

By the SENATE, March 10, 1922.

Introduced, read first time and referred to the Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

By order, E. R. CROTHERS, Secretary.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

Favorable.

WALTER J. MITCHELL, Chairman.

By the SENATE, March 21, 1922.

Reported favorably by the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, amended on floor, amendments adopted, read second time and ordered printed for third reading.

By order, E. R. CROTHERS, Secretary.

3R Passed

*Filed April 18, 1922.
L. C. Maguire, Clerk.*

*Constitutional Amendments
report adopted
2R passed 3R
Failed to pass for lack
of Constitutional Majority
Vote Recommended
3R passed*

ARTICLE XVII.

Quadrennial Elections.

1 Section 1. All State officers elected by qualified voters (ex-
2 cept judges of the Circuit Courts of the several circuits, the
3 member of the Court of Appeals from Baltimore City, and
4 members of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City), and all
5 county officers elected by qualified voters, shall hold office for
6 terms of four years, and until their successors shall qualify.

1 Section 2. Elections by qualified voters for State and coun-
2 ty officers shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Mon-
3 day of November, in the year nineteen hundred and twenty-
4 six, and on the same day in every fourth year thereafter.

1 Section 3. Members of the House of Delegates and all other
2 State and county officers elected by the qualified voters at the
3 election to be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday
4 of November, in the year nineteen hundred and twenty-three
5 for terms of office heretofore fixed by law at two years, shall
6 hold office for terms of three years; the Governor, Attorney
7 General, members of the State Senate and all other State and
8 County officers elected by the qualified voters at the election
9 to be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday of No-
10 vember, in the year nineteen hundred and twenty-three, for
11 terms of office heretofore fixed by law at four years, shall hold
12 office for terms of three years; Registers of Wills, Clerks of
13 Court and all other State and county officers elected by quali-
14 fied voters at the election to be held on the Tuesday next after
15 the first Monday of November, in the year nineteen hundred
16 and twenty-three, for terms of office heretofore fixed by law at
17 six years, shall hold office for terms of three years; and all
18 such State and county officers elected by qualified voters there-
19 after shall hold office for terms of four years.

1 Section 4. All officers to be appointed by the Governor un-
2 der existing provisions of law in the year nineteen hundred
3 and twenty-four for terms of office heretofore fixed by law at
4 two years, shall hold office for terms of three years; all officers
5 so appointed for terms of office heretofore fixed by law at four
6 years, shall hold office for terms of three years; all officers so
7 appointed for terms of office heretofore fixed by law at six

8 years, shall hold office for terms of five years, and thereafter
9 appointments by the Governor shall be for the terms heretofore
10 fixed by law, unless otherwise duly changed by law. All offi-
11 cers appointed by County Commissioners after the election to
12 be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday of Novem-
13 ber, nineteen hundred and twenty-three, for terms of office of
14 two, four or six years, shall hold office for terms of three years;
15 and thereafter appointment by the County Commissioners shall
16 be for terms of four years, unless otherwise duly changed by
17 law.

1 Section 5. The terms of all State and county officers hereto-
2 fore elected by qualified voters, and whose successors would not
3 be elected until the Tuesday next after the first Monday of
4 November, nineteen hundred and twenty-five, shall be in-
5 creased by one year, and their successors shall be elected for
6 the regular term at the election to be held on the Tuesday next
7 after the first Monday of November, nineteen hundred and
8 twenty-six. The terms of all State and county officers hereto-
9 fore elected by qualified voters, and whose successors would not
10 be elected until the Tuesday next after the first Monday of
11 November, nineteen hundred and twenty-seven, shall remain
12 unchanged; their successors shall be elected for a term of three
13 years at the elections to be held on the Tuesday next after the
14 first Monday of November, nineteen hundred and twenty-six,
14a but shall not take office until the expiration of the full term for
14b which their predecessors have been elected; and their successors
14c shall be elected for the regular term at the election to be held on
14d the Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, nineteen
15 hundred and thirty. Nothing herein shall affect the terms of any
16 judge of the Circuit Court of the several circuits, the member of
17 the Court of Appeals from Baltimore City, or any member of
18 the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City; if the term of any such
19 judge shall expire in a year in which no election for members
20 of the General Assembly is held, the Governor shall appoint a
21 person duly qualified to fill said office, who shall hold the same
22 until the next general election for members of the General As-
23 sembly, when a successor shall be elected for the term elsewhere
24 provided. The terms of all State and county officers here-
25 tofore appointed for terms which will not expire until during

26 the year nineteen hundred and twenty-five, nineteen hundred
27 and twenty-six, nineteen hundred and twenty-seven or nineteen
28 hundred and twenty-eight shall be reduced by one year, and
29 their successors shall be appointed for the terms now provided
30 by law in the years nineteen hundred and twenty-four, nineteen
31 hundred and twenty-five, nineteen hundred and twenty-six or
32 nineteen hundred and twenty-seven, respectively. In the event
33 that the term of any officer appointed by the Governor with the
34 advice and consent of the Senate shall expire in the year nine-
35 teen hundred and twenty-five or twenty-six, the Governor shall
36 have power to appoint a successor, who shall serve for the full
37 term subject to confirmation by the Senate at the regular ses-
38 sion to be held under this Article in the year nineteen hundred
39 and twenty-seven.

1 Section 6. The General Assembly shall meet on the first
2 Wednesday of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-four, for
3 a regular session, and shall not meet again for a regular session
4 until the first Wednesday of January, nineteen hundred and
5 twenty-seven, and the General Assembly shall meet on the same
6 day in every second year thereafter and at no other time, unless
7 convened by proclamation of the Governor.

1 Section 7. The term of the Treasurer elected by the General
2 Assembly at the regular session of nineteen hundred and twen-
3 ty-four shall be three years. Thereafter the term shall be the
4 same as elsewhere provided.

1 Section 8. The terms of the Members of the Board of Su-
2 pervisors of Elections of Baltimore City and of the several
3 counties shall commence on the first Monday of June next
4 ensuing their appointment.

1 Section 9. The vote to be held under the provisions of Sec-
2 tion 2 of Article XIV of the Constitution for the purpose of
3 taking the sense of the people in regard to calling a Constitu-
4 tional Convention shall be held at the general election in the
5 year nineteen hundred and thirty, and every twenty years
6 thereafter.

1 Section 10. The Governor shall submit three budgets to
2 the General Assembly at the regular session of nineteen hun-
3 dred and twenty-four, in accordance with the provisions of

4 Section 52 of Article III of the Constitution, for the three
5 fiscal years beginning October first, nineteen hundred and
6 twenty-four and ending September thirtieth, nineteen hundred
7 and twenty-seven, and two budgets to the General Assembly
8 at the regular session of nineteen hundred and twenty-seven,
9 and thereafter as now provided by said section.

1 Section 11. The purpose of this Article is to reduce the
2 number of elections, by providing that all State and county
3 elections shall be held only in every fourth year, and at the
4 time now provided by law for holding congressional elections;
5 and to bring the terms of appointive officers into harmony with
6 the changes effected in the time of the beginning of the terms
7 of elective officers; and the administrative and judicial officers
8 of the State shall construe the provisions of this Article so as
9 to effectuate that purpose. For the purpose of this Article only
10 the word "officers" shall be construed to include those holding
11 positions and other places of employment in the state and
12 county governments whose terms are fixed by law, but it shall
13 not include any appointments made by the Board of Public
14 Works, nor appointments by the Governor for terms of three
15 years.

1 Section 12. The General Assembly, at the regular session in
2 the year nineteen hundred and twenty-four, shall make such
3 changes in the primary and general election laws, and other-
4 wise, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
5 Article. There shall be no election for State or county officers
6 in the year nineteen hundred and twenty-five.

1 Section 13. In the event of any inconsistency between the
2 provisions of this Article and any of the other provisions of the
3 Constitution, the provisions of this Article shall prevail, and
4 all other provisions shall be repealed or abrogated to the extent
5 of such inconsistency.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority afore-*
2 *said,* That said foregoing section, hereby proposed as an
3 amendment to the Constitution shall be at the next general
4 election for Members of the House of Representatives of Con-
5 gress held in this State submitted to the legal and qualified
6 voters of the State for adoption or rejection, in pursuance of

7 the directions contained in Article XIV of the Constitution of
8 this State, and at the said general election the vote on the said
9 proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot,
10 and upon each ballot there shall be printed the following synop-
11 sis of said amendment under the caption of

12 “CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROVIDING
13 FOR FEWER ELECTIONS.”

14 “This amendment provides that all State officers, except
15 judges, and all county officers elected by qualified voters shall
16 be elected in every fourth year for terms of four years begin-
17 ning with the election in November, nineteen hundred and
18 twenty-six. The terms of State and county officers to be elected
19 in nineteen hundred and twenty-three are reduced to three
20 years, and the terms of other elective officers are increased or
21 reduced, as necessary, so that their successors may be elected in
22 nineteen hundred and twenty-six. Terms of officers appointed
23 by the Governor and by County Commissioners are adjusted
24 in harmony with the terms of the officials by whom they are
25 appointed. The General Assembly shall meet in nineteen
26 hundred and twenty-four for a regular session, and again in
27 nineteen hundred and twenty-seven, and every two years there-
28 after. Other provisions of the Constitution and of the Laws
29 are adjusted to harmonize with the above changes”; and the
30 words “For Fewer Elections Amendment” and “Against
31 Fewer Elections Amendment,” as now provided by law, and
32 immediately after said election due returns shall be made to
33 the Governor of the vote for and against said proposed amend-
34 ment, as directed by said Fourteenth Article of the Constitu-
35 tion, and further proceedings had in accordance with said
36 Article Fourteen.

Approved: APR 13 1922

Albert Ritchie

Governor.

William L. Norris

President of the Senate.

John L. Siler

Speaker of The House of Delegates.





Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his

approval this 13 day of April

at o'clock, M. 1972

E. R. Crothers

Secretary.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

3/28

1922.

Reported favorably from the

Com. Amendments

and read the second time

By order

[Signature]

Chief Clerk.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

1922.

Reported favorably from the

with amendment; amendment adopted read the second time

By order

Chief Clerk.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

3/30

1922.

Read third time and passed by Yeas and Nays

By order

[Signature]

Chief Clerk.

BY THE SENATE

1922.

House of Delegates amendment Concurred in and bill passed by Yeas and Nays as amended

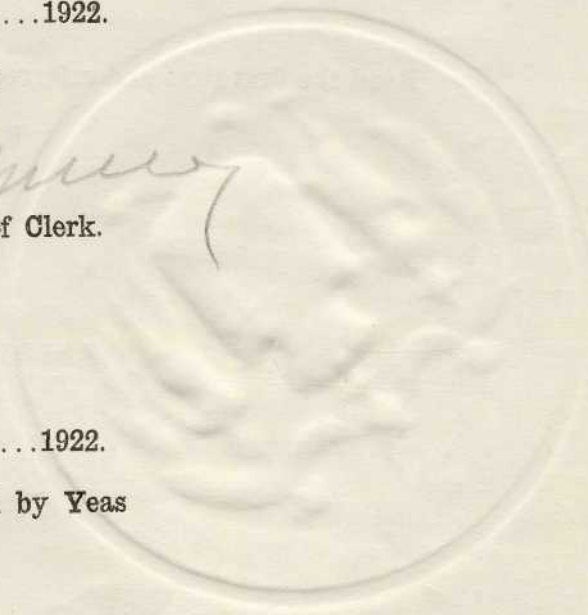
By order

Secretary.

3/30

Vote by which bill failed reconsidered and bill passed by yeas and nays

[Signature]



Examined by Committee on Printed Bills

Frank P. Rowan
.....
Committee
.....

BY THE SENATE

March 23rd 1922

Read third time and passed by yeas and nays

By order

E. P. Rochester
Secretary.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

3/24 1922

Read the first time and referred to.....

Com. Amendments

By order

A. J. Murray

Chief Clerk.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Favorable

John Hubert Rice Chairman

3/29
Failed for want of Constitutional majority

By order
A. J. Murray
Chief Clerk

