

ARTICLE III.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 1. The Legislature shall consist of two distinct branches; a Senate, and a House of Delegates; and shall be styled the General Assembly of Maryland.

¹ **SEC. 2.** The membership of the Senate shall consist of the forty-three (43) Senators. The membership of the House of Delegates shall consist of one hundred forty-two (142) Delegates.

² **SEC. 3.** The State shall be divided by law into districts for the election of members of the Senate and into districts for the election of members of the House of Delegates. The number of Senators and Delegates to be elected from each of the legislative districts shall be prescribed by law, but not more than two Senators shall be elected from any senatorial district.

³ **SEC. 4.** Each legislative district shall consist of adjoining territory and shall be compact in form. The ratio of the number of Senators to population shall be substantially the same in each legislative district; the ratio of the number of Delegates to population shall be substantially the same in each legislative district, nothing herein shall be construed to require the election of only one Delegate from each legislative district.

⁴ **SEC. 5.** Following each decennial census of the United States, the Governor shall prepare a plan for legislative districting and apportionment. The Governor shall present the plan to the General Assembly not later than the first day of its regular session in the second year following the census, and may call a special session to present it prior thereto. No change in the number of members of the Senate or House of Delegates shall be provided in this plan. Following each decennial census the General Assembly shall by law enact a plan for legislative districting and apportionment. If no plan has been enacted for these purposes by the forty-fifth day after the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly of the second year following the census, the plan presented to the General Assembly by the Governor shall become law. Upon petition of any registered voter, the Court of Appeals shall have original jurisdiction to review the legislative districting and apportionment of the State and may grant appropriate relief, if it finds that

¹ Thus amended by Chapter 785, Acts of 1969, ratified November 3, 1970.

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