

CHAPTER 790
(Senate Bill 526)

AN ACT to propose an amendment to Article II of the Constitution of Maryland, title "Executive Department," by adding new Section 24, to authorize the Governor to make changes in the organization of the executive branch by specified methods and set forth the legal status of such reorganizations when made in conformance with these methods and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, (three-fifths of all members elected to each of the two Houses concurring), That new Section 24 be added to Article II of the Constitution of Maryland, title "Executive Department," the same if adopted by the legal and qualified voters of the State, as herewith provided, to become a part of the Constitution of Maryland, and to read as follows:*

24. REORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Governor may make changes in the organization of the Executive Branch of the State Government, including the establishment or abolition of departments, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities, and the reallocation or ~~assignment~~ REASSIGNMENT of functions, powers, and duties among the departments, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Executive Branch. Where these changes ~~affect or~~ are inconsistent with existing law, OR CREATE NEW GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS they shall be set forth in executive orders in statutory form which shall be submitted to the General Assembly within the first ten days of a regular session. An executive order that has been submitted shall become effective and have the force of law on the date designated in the Order unless specifically disapproved, within fifty days after submission, by a resolution of disapproval concurred in by a majority vote of all members of either House of the General Assembly. No executive order reorganizing the Executive Branch shall abolish any office established by this Constitution or shall change the powers and duties delegated to particular officers or departments by this Constitution.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That the foregoing section hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland at the next ensuing general election to be held in this State, shall be submitted to the legal and qualified voters thereof for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of the directions contained in Article XIV of the Constitution of this State, and at the said general election, the vote on said proposed amendment shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional Amendment," as now prescribed by law, and immediately after said election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Constitution, and further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.*

Approved May 21, 1969.