

(House Bill 773)

AN ACT concerning

Chartered Counties - Referendum

FOR the purpose of confirming by statutory enactment the inherent right of the citizens of a chartered county to reserve to themselves the power of referendum by which they may, by petition, submit to the registered voters of the county any local law, or portion thereof, enacted by the county council; providing that this right shall be set forth in the county charter; providing that the county charter or local laws enacted by the county council shall provide adequate details with respect to the time, notice and form relating to a referendum; and providing that initial notice of a referendum must not be less than a certain time before the election at which a local law is submitted to the voters of the county.

BY adding to

Article 25A - Chartered Counties of Maryland
Section 8
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1973 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That new Section 8 be and it is hereby added to Article 25A - Chartered Counties of Maryland, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1973 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 25A - Chartered Counties of Maryland

8.

(A) THE CITIZENS OF A CHARTERED COUNTY HAVE THE RIGHT TO RESERVE TO THEMSELVES THE POWER OF REFERENDUM BY WHICH THEY MAY, BY PETITION, SUBMIT TO THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE COUNTY ANY LOCAL LAW, OR PORTION OF ANY LOCAL LAW, ENACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL. IF RESERVED, THIS RIGHT SHALL BE SET FORTH IN THE CHARTER OF THE COUNTY WHICH SHALL SPECIFY THE TYPES OF LOCAL LAWS WHICH MAY BE PETITIONED TO REFERENDUM AND WHETHER PORTIONS OF LAWS MAY BE PETITIONED TO REFERENDUM.

(B) IN IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE POWER OF REFERENDUM, THE COUNTY CHARTER OR THE LOCAL LAWS ENACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL PROVIDE ADEQUATE DETAILS WITH RESPECT TO TIME, NOTICE, AND FORM. HOWEVER, IN NO EVENT