

Victoria L. Gruber
Executive Director



Ryan Bishop
Director

DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
OFFICE OF POLICY ANALYSIS
MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

August 11, 2026

Jared DeMarinis, Esq.
State Administrator of Elections
P.O. Box 6486
151 West Street, Suite 200
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-0486

Dear Mr. DeMarinis:

In accordance with § 7-105(b) of the Election Law Article, enclosed are the summaries prepared by the Department of Legislative Services of the following questions that will appear on the ballot at the 2026 general election as a result of legislation passed by the General Assembly at the Special Session of 2026:

Question 1 – Constitutional Amendment

Chapter 155 (House Bill 604) of 2026
Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act of 2026

Question 2 – Constitutional Amendment

Chapter 878 (Senate Bill 933) of 2026
Judiciary Department – Commission on Judicial Disabilities – Temporary Appointment

Question 3 – Constitutional Amendment

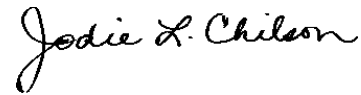
Chapter 881 (House Bill 2100) of the Special Session of 2026
Election Districts – General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

As you are aware, during the Special Session, the General Assembly: (1) withdrew and recalled the constitutional amendment proposed by Chapter 156 (Senate Bill 28) of 2026 through the passage of Chapter 882 of the Acts of the Special Session of the General Assembly of 2026; and (2) proposed an additional constitutional amendment through the passage of Chapter 881 of the Acts of the Special Session of the General Assembly of 2026.

August 10, 2026
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Attached is a copy of a letter dated August 7, 2026, indicating that the summaries have been approved by the Office of the Attorney General.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodie L. Chilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "C".

Jodie L. Chilson
Senior Manager

JLC/vm

Enclosures (4)

cc: Victoria L. Gruber
Ryan Bishop
Effie C. Rife

CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI
Chief Deputy Attorney General

LEONARD J. HOWIE III
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**STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General

PETER V. BERNIS
General Counsel

CHRISTIAN E. BARRERA
Chief of Staff

August 7, 2026

Sent by e-mail: Victoria.Gruber@mga.maryland.gov

Victoria Gruber
Executive Director
Department of Legislative Services
90 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Ms. Gruber,

Pursuant to Election Law Article, § 7-105(b)(2)(ii), I hereby approve the attached summaries of Chapter 155 (House Bill 604) of 2026; Chapter 878 (Senate Bill 933) of 2026, and Chapter 881 (House Bill 2100) of 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AG Brown".

Anthony G. Brown

cc:

Ryan Bishop, Director, Department of Legislative Services
Effie Rife, Manager, Department of Legislative Services
Jodie Chilson, Department of Legislative Services
Vanessa Murphy, Administrative Assistant, Department of Legislative Services

QUESTION 1: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act of 2026

Chapter 155 of 2026 (House Bill 604)

Summary

This constitutional amendment would amend the Maryland Constitution to require that the annual budget submitted by the Governor to the General Assembly include the proposed appropriations necessary to implement and fund all terms and conditions of employment in each collective bargaining memorandum of understanding involving the State, a State institution of higher education, or the Maryland Environmental Service, and the exclusive representatives of their respective employees. The requirement applies whether the memorandum of understanding was reached through mutual agreement or binding arbitration. Further, each annual budget must contain a statement showing changes in wages, hours, fringe benefits, health benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment for State employees included in each memorandum of understanding covering State employees for the next fiscal year.

Also, contingent on passage of the proposed constitutional amendment, and its ratification by the voters, the bill establishes binding arbitration in the event of an impasse in collective bargaining negotiations for State employees (except for employees of State institutions of higher education). If the constitutional amendment passes, the legislation requires the selection of a neutral arbitrator to oversee all aspects of collective bargaining when a bargaining impasse is declared and clarifies the matters subject to negotiation.

The legislation further clarifies that under collective bargaining (1) matters requiring a change in law are contingent on the enactment of legislation making the change; (2) matters requiring an appropriation are contingent on the General Assembly's approval of the appropriation; and (3) an arbitrator's decision related to wages is subject to limitations of the State budget.

QUESTION 2: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Judiciary Department – Commission on Judicial Disabilities – Temporary Appointment

Chapter 878 of 2026 (Senate Bill 933)

Summary

The Commission on Judicial Disabilities is responsible for investigating complaints against State court justices and judges and recommending disciplinary action to the Supreme Court of Maryland, as appropriate. There are no provisions in current law governing the membership of the commission when there is a vacancy at the end of an expired term, a recusal, or a disqualification.

This constitutional amendment would authorize the commission chair, in the event of a vacancy at the end of an expired term, a recusal, or a disqualification, to recall a former member to serve as a temporary substitute member of the Commission or request that the Governor appoint a temporary substitute member or extend a current member's term. If the commission chair requests that the Governor take action, the Governor would be authorized to appoint a temporary substitute member for a specified period or extend a current member's term until a replacement member is appointed.

Under the constitutional amendment, a temporary substitute member: (1) is subject to the same qualifications that applied to the member who is being temporarily replaced; (2) may not have been previously rejected by the Senate for appointment to the commission; and (3) if the member is a judge or an attorney, must be in good standing with the Maryland bar.

QUESTION 3: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Election Districts – General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

Chapter 881 of the Special Session of 2026 (House Bill 2100)

Summary

This constitutional amendment would clarify that the districting standards in Article III, § 4 of the Maryland Constitution apply only for the election of members of the Senate of Maryland and House of Delegates.

Currently, under Article III, § 4 of the Maryland Constitution, each legislative district must consist of adjoining territory, be compact in form, and of substantially equal population. Additionally, due regard is to be given to natural boundaries and the boundaries of political subdivisions. In a 2022 ruling, the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County held that those districting standards apply to congressional districts as well as districts for the election of members of the General Assembly.

Additionally, the constitutional amendment would establish that nothing in the Maryland Constitution, including the Declaration of Rights, provides applicable criteria for the boundaries of a congressional districting plan.

Finally, the constitutional amendment would grant the General Assembly the power to grant original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court of Maryland to review the congressional districting plans of the State. Under current law, a legal challenge brought in State court to a congressional districting plan must be made in a Maryland circuit court.