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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (PRE–FILED)

5lr1029

By: Delegate Vogel

Requested: October 1, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

I	AN ACT concerning	

2 Declaration of Rights – Right to Organi

- FOR the purpose of establishing every person employed in the State has the fundamental right to organize and bargain collectively concerning compensation, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment; and prohibiting the State from, directly or indirectly, denying, burdening, or abridging the right unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.
- 8 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution
- 9 Declaration of Rights
- 10 Article 49
- 11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
- 12 (Three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses concurring), That it be
- 13 proposed that the Maryland Constitution read as follows:

14 Declaration of Rights

15 **ARTICLE 49.**

- THAT EVERY PERSON EMPLOYED IN THE STATE HAS THE FUNDAMENTAL
- 17 RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY CONCERNING COMPENSATION,
- 18 HOURS, AND OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE STATE MAY
- 19 NOT, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, DENY, BURDEN, OR ABRIDGE THE RIGHT UNLESS
- 20 JUSTIFIED BY A COMPELLING STATE INTEREST ACHIEVED BY THE LEAST
- 21 RESTRICTIVE MEANS.
- 22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly
- 23 determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this

Act affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the Maryland Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not apply.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by Section 1 of this Act shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2026 for adoption or rejection in accordance with Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election, the vote on the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and on each ballot there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional Amendment", as now provided by law. Immediately after the 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 Maryland Constitution, and further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.