

Victoria L. Gruber
Executive Director



Ryan Bishop
Director

DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
OFFICE OF POLICY ANALYSIS
MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

July 29, 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:

Question 1 – Constitutional Amendment

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

Question 2 – Constitutional Amendment

Chapter 156 (Senate Bill 28) of 2026
Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act of 2026

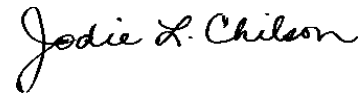
Question 3 – Constitutional Amendment

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

July 29, 2026
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Attached is a copy of a letter dated July 22, 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, flowing style.

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
Deputy Attorney General

CARRIE J. WILLIAMS
Deputy Attorney General

SHARON S. MERRIWEATHER
Deputy Attorney General

ZENITA WICKHAM HURLEY
Deputy Attorney General



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General

PETER V. BERNIS
General Counsel

CHRISTIAN E. BARRERA
Chief of Staff

July 22, 2026

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

Victoria L. 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 156 (Senate Bill 28) of 2026; and Chapter 878 (Senate Bill 933) of 2026.

Sincerely,

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

Anthony G. Brown

Enclosure

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

Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act of 2026

Chapter 156 of 2026 (Senate Bill 28)

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 3: 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.