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**By: Senators Collins and Roesser**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Laws - Absentee Voters - Publication**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Administrative Board of Election Laws to request  
4 certain information from an applicant for an absentee ballot; prohibiting the boards  
5 of supervisors of elections from making certain information concerning such  
6 applicants available for examination by any registered voter without the consent of  
7 the applicant; and generally relating to information concerning absentee voters.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article 33 - Election Code  
10 Section 27-4 and 27-6(c)(1)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article 33 - Election Code**

16 27-4.

17 (A) Except as provided in Section 27-2 of this article, a qualified voter desiring to  
18 vote at any election as an absentee voter shall make application in writing to the board for  
19 an absentee ballot, which application must be received not later than the Tuesday  
20 preceding the election.

21 (B) (1) The application shall contain an affidavit, which need not be under oath  
22 but which shall set forth such information, under penalty of perjury, as may be required  
23 by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws.

24 (2) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE  
25 STATE BOARD, THE APPLICATION SHALL REQUEST THAT THE APPLICANT INDICATE  
26 WHETHER THE APPLICANT CONSENTS TO HAVING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE  
27 APPLICATION AVAILABLE FOR EXAMINATION BY ANY REGISTERED VOTER. IF THE  
28 APPLICANT FAILS TO RESPOND TO THIS QUESTION, THE FAILURE DOES NOT  
29 INVALIDATE THE APPLICATION, AND THE APPLICANT SHALL BE DEEMED NOT TO  
30 HAVE GRANTED CONSENT.

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1 (C) Upon receipt of the application the board shall issue, to the voter or a duly  
2 authorized agent, an absentee ballot.

3 27-6.

4 (c) (1) The board shall keep a record of applications for absentee voters' ballots  
5 as they are received, showing the date and time received, AND the namesand residences  
6 of the applicants[, and]. [such] THE record, EXCLUDING ALL INFORMATION  
7 CONCERNING APPLICANTS WHO HAVE NOT CONSENTED TO HAVING THE  
8 INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR EXAMINATION, shall be available for examination by  
9 any registered voter on written application to the board.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 1996.