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2000 Regular Session 0lr2141

By: Delegate Howard

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2000 Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

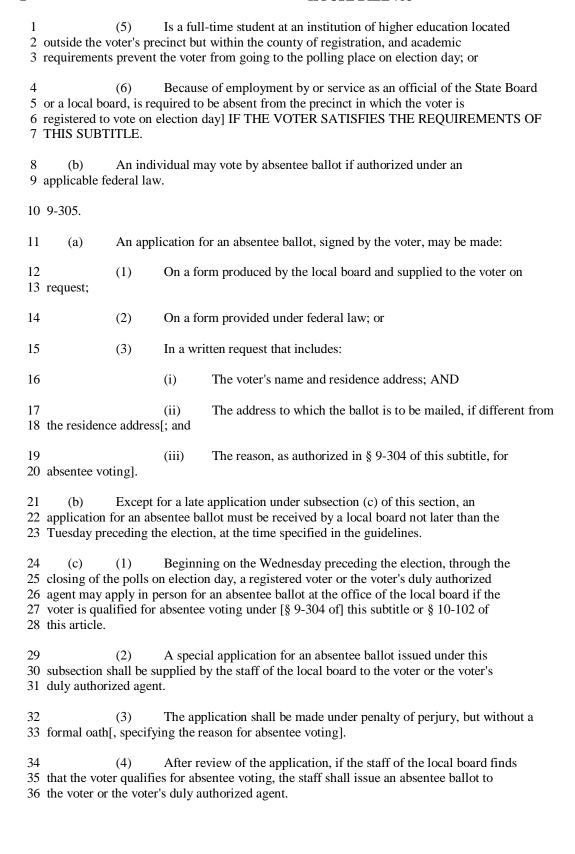
## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

## 2 Election Law - Absentee Ballots - Removal of Eligibility Requirements

- 3 FOR the purpose of removing certain eligibility requirements for voting by absentee
- ballot; removing the requirement that an affidavit be completed stating that the 4
- 5 applicant meets certain eligibility requirements; and generally relating to
- 6 broadening the eligibility for voting by absentee ballot in elections in the State.
- 7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- Article 33 Election Code 8
- Section 9-304, 9-305, and 10-102 9
- 10 Annotated Code of Maryland
- (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement) 11
- SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 12
- 13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
- 14 **Article 33 - Election Code**
- 15 9-304.
- A registered voter may vote by absentee ballot at an election [if the voter: 16 (a)
- 17 (1) Will be absent on election day from the county in which the voter is 18 registered;
- 19
- Because of accident, illness, or physical disability, will be unable to go 20 to the polling place on election day;
- 21 Because of confinement in or restriction to an institution, will be
- 22 prevented from going to the polling place on election day;
- 23 Because of a death or serious illness in the voter's immediate family,
- 24 will be unable to go to the polling place on election day;

## **HOUSE BILL 753**



- 1 10-102.
- 2 (a) If the polling place assigned to an elderly or disabled voter is not 3 structurally barrier free, the voter may request a reassignment by the local board.
- 4 (b) (1) To qualify for a reassignment by the local board, the voter shall 5 submit a request in writing to the local board not later than the close of registration
- 6 for the election.
- 7 (2) The request may be made on a form prescribed by the State Board.
- 8 (c) On receipt of a request from an elderly or disabled voter under subsection 9 (b) of this section, the local board shall either:
- 10 (1) Assign the voter to an election district, ward, or precinct in the voter's 11 county that contains a structurally barrier free polling place; or
- 12 (2) Issue the voter an absentee ballot in accordance with the procedures
- 13 established under Title 9, Subtitle 3 of this article[, notwithstanding the voter's lack
- 14 of eligibility for an absentee ballot under Title 9, Subtitle 3 of this article].
- 15 (d) Any ballot issued to a voter under subsection (c)(2) of this section shall be 16 identical to the ballot used in the polling place originally assigned to the voter.
- 17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 18 October 1, 2000.