

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1279
Ways and Means

(Delegate Frank, *et al.*)

Election Law - Identification of Voters

This bill requires an election judge to qualify a voter by requesting that the voter present either a driver's license, an identification card issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration, or a voter identification card. If a voter is unable to present any of the required forms of identification, the election judge must verify the date of birth by having the voter state the month and day of the voter's birth.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not substantially affect State finances.

Local Effect: Local boards of election would be able to handle any additional printing and training costs associated with changes in procedure required by the bill with existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An election judge is required to establish a voter's identity by requesting the voter to state the month and day of the voter's birth and comparing the response to the information listed in the precinct register.

Background: Title III of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 requires all states to require identification from voters who have registered by mail and who have not previously voted in an election for federal office in a state, or if the individual has not

previously voted in such an election in a local jurisdiction that is located in a state without a central, computerized voter registration list. Under this federal statute, valid forms of identification are: (1) a current and valid photo identification; (2) a copy of a current utility bill; (3) a bank statement; (4) a government check or paycheck; or (5) other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Board of Elections, Kent County, Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 2005
mam/jr

Analysis by: Michelle L. Harrison-Davis

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510