

# HOUSE BILL 554

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CF SB 488

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By: **Delegates Ross, Ali, Anderson, Braveboy, Burns, Cane, Carter, Davis, Gilchrist, Glenn, Gutierrez, Harrison, Haynes, Hucker, Ivey, Kaiser, Lawton, Montgomery, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Ramirez, Rice, Robinson, Stukes, Tarrant, Taylor, F. Turner, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2007

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Voter Registration Protection Act**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain qualifications for voter registration; providing that  
4 an individual is not qualified to register to vote if the individual has been  
5 convicted of a felony and is actually serving a court-ordered sentence imposed  
6 for the conviction; repealing certain conditions relating to the eligibility of  
7 certain felons convicted of certain crimes to register to vote; modifying the  
8 criteria under which a certain criminal penalty may be imposed; and generally  
9 relating to voter registration eligibility requirements for individuals convicted of  
10 certain crimes.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Election Law  
13 Section 3–102 and 16–202  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2003 Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Election Law**

19 3–102.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, an individual may  
2 become registered to vote if the individual:

3 (1) is a citizen of the United States;

4 (2) is at least 18 years old or will be 18 years old on or before the day  
5 of the next succeeding general or special election;

6 (3) is a resident of the State as of the day the individual seeks to  
7 register; and

8 (4) registers pursuant to this title.

9 (b) An individual is not qualified to be a registered voter if the individual:

10 (1) has been convicted of [theft or other infamous crime, unless the  
11 individual:

12 (i) has been pardoned; or

13 (ii) 1. in connection with a first conviction, has completed  
14 the court-ordered sentence imposed for the conviction, including probation, parole,  
15 community service, restitutions, and fines; or

16 2. in connection with a subsequent conviction, has  
17 completed the court-ordered sentence imposed for the conviction, including probation,  
18 parole, community service, restitutions, and fines, and at least 3 years have elapsed  
19 since the completion of the court-ordered sentence imposed for the conviction,  
20 including probation, parole, community service, restitutions, and fines;] **A FELONY  
21 AND IS ACTUALLY SERVING A COURT-ORDERED SENTENCE IMPOSED FOR THE  
22 CONVICTION; OR**

23 (2) is under guardianship for mental disability[; or

24 (3) has been convicted of buying or selling votes].

25 [(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, an individual is not  
26 qualified to be a registered voter if the individual has been convicted of a second or  
27 subsequent crime of violence, as defined in § 14-101 of the Criminal Law Article.]

28 16-202.

1           (a) A person who has been convicted of [an infamous crime,] **A FELONY AND**  
2 **IS ACTUALLY SERVING A COURT-ORDERED SENTENCE IMPOSED FOR THE**  
3 **CONVICTION**, and has been rendered ineligible to vote pursuant to § 3-102(b) of this  
4 article, may not vote or attempt to vote during the time that the person is rendered  
5 ineligible to vote.

6           (b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a felony and is subject to  
7 imprisonment for not less than 1 year nor more than 5 years.

8           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
9 July 1, 2007.