

# SENATE BILL 31

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By: **Senators Raskin, Frosh, Lenett, Muse, Peters, Pinsky, Rosapepe, Simonaire, Stone, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2007

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elections – Voter Registration and Voting – Age**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the qualifications for voter registration to allow an  
4 individual who is at least 16 years old to register to vote; specifying that an  
5 individual is not eligible to vote until a certain election in which the individual  
6 is 18 years old or older; and generally relating to the age when an individual  
7 becomes qualified to register to vote and to vote.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Election Law  
10 Section 3–102  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2003 Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Election Law**

16 3–102.

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

19 **[(1)] (I)** is a citizen of the United States;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1            [(2)] (II) is at least [18] **16** years old [or will be 18 years old on or  
2 before the day of the next succeeding general or special election];

3            [(3)] (III) is a resident of the State as of the day the individual seeks to  
4 register; and

5            [(4)] (IV) registers pursuant to this title.

6            **(2) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
7 **AN INDIVIDUAL IS NOT QUALIFIED TO VOTE UNTIL THE FIRST GENERAL OR**  
8 **SPECIAL ELECTION THAT OCCURS WHILE THE INDIVIDUAL IS 18 YEARS OLD OR**  
9 **OLDER.**

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

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

13           (i) has been pardoned; or

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

17           2. in connection with a subsequent conviction, has  
18 completed the court-ordered sentence imposed for the conviction, including probation,  
19 parole, community service, restitutions, and fines, and at least 3 years have elapsed  
20 since the completion of the court-ordered sentence imposed for the conviction,  
21 including probation, parole, community service, restitutions, and fines;

22           (2) is under guardianship for mental disability; or

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

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

27           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 2007.