

# HOUSE BILL 324

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By: **Delegates Afzali, Eckardt, Frank, George, Ivey, McComas, Ready, Schuh, and Schulz**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2013

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elections – Offenses Relating to Voting – Penalties**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the penalties for offenses relating to voting; and generally  
4 relating to the penalties for offenses relating to voting.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article – Election Law  
7 Section 16–201  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Election Law**

13 16–201.

14 (a) A person may not willfully and knowingly:

15 (1) (i) impersonate another person in order to vote or attempt to  
16 vote; or

17 (ii) vote or attempt to vote under a false name;

18 (2) vote more than once for a candidate for the same office or for the  
19 same ballot question;

20 (3) vote or attempt to vote more than once in the same election, or vote  
21 in more than one election district or precinct;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (4)    vote in an election district or precinct without the legal authority  
2 to vote in that election district or precinct;

3           (5)    influence or attempt to influence a voter's voting decision through  
4 the use of force, threat, menace, intimidation, bribery, reward, or offer of reward;

5           (6)    influence or attempt to influence a voter's decision whether to go to  
6 the polls to cast a vote through the use of force, fraud, threat, menace, intimidation,  
7 bribery, reward, or offer of reward; or

8           (7)    engage in conduct that results or has the intent to result in the  
9 denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on  
10 account of race, color, or disability.

11           (b)    Except as provided in § 16–1002 of this title, a person who violates this  
12 section is guilty of [a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine of not more  
13 than \$2,500 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both] **A FELONY AND ON  
14 CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$100,000 AND  
15 IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 5 YEARS.**

16           (c)    A person who violates this section is subject to § 5–106(b) of the Courts  
17 Article.

18           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 2013.