

SENATE BILL 48

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(PRE-FILED)

4r0794
CF 4r0648

By: **Senator Benson**

Requested: November 4, 2013

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Polling Places – Accommodations for Disabled Voters**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that, to the extent practicable, an election judge take
4 certain actions regarding a disabled voter who is in a waiting line to vote; and
5 generally relating to accommodations for disabled voters at polling places.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article – Election Law
8 Section 1–101(a) and (q)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Election Law
13 Section 10–308.1
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 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 1–101.

20 (a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated unless a
21 different meaning is clearly intended from the context.

22 (q) “Disabled” means having a temporary or permanent physical disability.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **10-308.1.**

2 **IF A DISABLED VOTER IS IN A WAITING LINE TO VOTE, AN ELECTION**
3 **JUDGE, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, SHALL:**

4 **(1) DESIGNATE ANOTHER VOTER IN THE WAITING LINE TO SERVE**
5 **AS A PLACEHOLDER AND ALLOW THE DISABLED VOTER TO SIT UNTIL THE**
6 **PLACEHOLDER REACHES THE CHECK-IN JUDGE; OR**

7 **(2) MOVE THE DISABLED VOTER TO THE FRONT OF THE WAITING**
8 **LINE.**

9 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
10 **June 1, 2014.**