A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Election Law – Political Party – Retention of Status

FOR the purpose of altering the number of registered voters in the State that must be affiliated with a political party as of a certain date each year in order for the political party to retain its status; and generally relating to a political party and the retention of its status.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Election Law
Section 4–103
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

Article – Election Law

4–103.

(a) (1) Unless extended pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a new political party shall retain its status as a political party until December 31 in the year of the second statewide general election following the party’s qualification under § 4–102 of this subtitle.

(2) The political party shall retain its status as a political party through either of the following:

(i) if the political party has nominated a candidate for the highest office on the ballot in a statewide general election, and the candidate receives
at least 1% of the total vote for that office, the political party shall retain its status through December 31 in the year of the next following general election; or

(ii) if the State voter registration totals, as of December 31, show that at least [1%] 10,000 of the State’s registered voters are affiliated with the political party, the political party shall retain its status until the next following December 31.

(b) The State Board shall promptly notify the State chairman of a group that loses its status as a political party.

(c) A group that loses its status as a political party may regain that status only by complying with all the requirements for qualifying as a new party under § 4–102 of this subtitle.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.