

HOUSE BILL 707

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HB 626/15 – W&M

7lr2121

By: **Delegates Moon, Platt, Tarlau, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2017

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Political Party – Retention of Status**

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

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Election Law
9 Section 4–103
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Election Law**

15 4–103.

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

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

22 (i) if the political party has nominated a candidate for the highest
23 office on the ballot in a statewide general election, and the candidate receives at least 1%

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 of the total vote for that office, the political party shall retain its status through December
2 31 in the year of the next following general election; or

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

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

8 (c) A group that loses its status as a political party may regain that status only
9 by complying with all the requirements for qualifying as a new party under §
10 4-102 of this subtitle.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2017.