

HOUSE BILL 174

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9lr0128

By: **Chair, Ways and Means Committee (By Request – Departmental – State Board of Elections)**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2019

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 12, 2019

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Absentee Ballot Requests – Last Four Digits of Social Security**
3 **Number**

4 FOR the purpose of altering a certain provision of law to require absent uniformed services
5 voters and overseas voters as defined in the federal Uniformed and Overseas
6 Citizens Absentee Voting Act and voters with a disability who do not have a
7 Maryland driver's license or Maryland identification card and who use certain
8 methods to request certain absentee ballots to provide the last four digits of the
9 applicant's Social Security number, rather than the full Social Security number; and
10 generally relating to information required to be provided with absentee ballot
11 requests.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Election Law
14 Section 9–305
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Election Law**

20 9–305.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



- 1 (a) A voter may request an absentee ballot by completing and submitting:
- 2 (1) the State Board approved absentee ballot application;
- 3 (2) a form provided under federal law;
- 4 (3) subject to subsection (b) of this section, a written request that includes:
- 5 (i) the voter's name, residence address, and signature; and
- 6 (ii) the address to which the ballot is to be mailed, if different from
- 7 the residence address; or
- 8 (4) the accessible online absentee ballot application provided by the State
- 9 Board.

10 (b) A voter who uses the online absentee ballot application to request that an

11 absentee ballot be sent by any method or who uses any method to request to receive a blank

12 absentee ballot through the Internet shall provide the following information:

13 (1) a Maryland driver's license number or Maryland identification card

14 number, the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number, and other

15 information identified by the State Board that is not generally available to the public but

16 is readily available to the applicant; or

17 (2) if the applicant is an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter

18 as defined in the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act or a voter

19 with a disability and does not have a Maryland driver's license or Maryland identification

20 card, **[a] THE LAST FOUR DIGITS OF THE APPLICANT'S** Social Security number.

21 (c) An application for an absentee ballot must be received by a local board:

22 (1) if the voter requests the absentee ballot be sent by mail or facsimile

23 transmission, not later than the Tuesday preceding the election, at the time specified in the

24 guidelines;

25 (2) if the voter requests the absentee ballot be sent by the Internet, not

26 later than the Friday preceding the election, at the time specified in the guidelines; or

27 (3) if the voter or the voter's duly authorized agent applies for an absentee

28 ballot in person at the local board office, not later than the closing of the polls on election

29 day.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July

31 1, 2019.