

HOUSE BILL 322

G1

9lr1542
CF 9lr2557

By: **Delegates Palakovich Carr, Hill, Acevero, Anderson, Bagnall, Barve, Boyce, Cain, Charkoudian, Ebersole, Feldmark, Fraser-Hidalgo, Gilchrist, Glenn, Guyton, Hettleman, Ivey, Johnson, Kelly, Korman, J. Lewis, R. Lewis, Lierman, Lisanti, Lopez, Love, Luedtke, Moon, Mosby, Qi, Queen, Shetty, Smith, Solomon, Stewart, Terrasa, Turner, C. Watson, Wells, Wilkins, and P. Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2019

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – References to Absentee Voting in Public Communications –**
3 **Voting by Mail**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Elections and local boards of elections to
5 refer to absentee ballots as “vote-by-mail” ballots and absentee voting as “voting by
6 mail” in all communications with voters and the general public; and generally
7 relating to referring to absentee voting as “voting by mail” in public communications.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Election Law
10 Section 9–301
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Election Law**

16 9–301.

17 (a) This subtitle applies to every election governed by this article.

18 (b) The State Board shall prescribe all forms required to comply with:

19 (1) this subtitle; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) any requirements of relevant federal law.

2 **(C) NOTWITHSTANDING THE USE OF THE TERM “ABSENTEE” IN THIS**
3 **ARTICLE, THE STATE BOARD AND LOCAL BOARDS SHALL REFER TO ABSENTEE**
4 **BALLOTS AS “VOTE-BY-MAIL” BALLOTS AND ABSENTEE VOTING AS “VOTING BY**
5 **MAIL” IN ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH VOTERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2019.