

## Chapter 154

**(House Bill 174)**

AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

**Article – Election Law**

9–305.

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

(b) A voter who uses the online absentee ballot application to request that an absentee ballot be sent by any method or who uses any method to request to receive a blank absentee ballot through the Internet shall provide the following information:

(1) a Maryland driver's license number or Maryland identification card number, the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number, and other information identified by the State Board that is not generally available to the public but is readily available to the applicant; or

(2) if the applicant is an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter as defined in the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act or a voter with a disability and does not have a Maryland driver's license or Maryland identification card, [a] **THE LAST FOUR DIGITS OF THE APPLICANT'S** Social Security number.

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

(1) if the voter requests the absentee ballot be sent by mail or facsimile transmission, not later than the Tuesday preceding the election, at the time specified in the guidelines;

(2) if the voter requests the absentee ballot be sent by the Internet, not later than the Friday preceding the election, at the time specified in the guidelines; or

(3) if the voter or the voter's duly authorized agent applies for an absentee ballot in person at the local board office, not later than the closing of the polls on election day.

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

**Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2019.**