SENATE BILL 362

G1 EMERGENCY BILL 0lr2027
CF 0lr2387

By: **Senator Kagan**
Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2020
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Absentee Ballots – Timing of Canvass**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the time that a local board of elections may begin opening
4 absentee ballot envelopes to canvass the absentee ballots cast in an election; making
5 this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the canvass of absentee
6 ballots.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Election Law
9 Section 11–302(a)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Election Law
14 Section 11–302(b)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 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 11–302.

21 (a) Following an election, each local board shall meet at its designated counting
22 center to canvass the absentee ballots cast in that election in accordance with the
23 regulations and guidelines established by the State Board.

EXPLANATION: **C**APITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

1   (b)   (1)   A local board may not open any envelope of an absentee ballot **[**prior to
2   8**] BEFORE 9** a.m. on the **[**Wednesday**] FRIDAY** following election day.

3   (2)   A local board may not delay the commencement of the canvass to await
4   the receipt of late–arriving, timely absentee ballots.

5   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
6   measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
7   been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to
8   each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
9   enacted.