

HOUSE BILL 245

G1

1lr1509

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Hill**

Requested: October 31, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Judges – Training and Signs – Accommodations for Voters in Need of**
3 **Assistance**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring that certain training materials used by the program of
5 instruction for election judges include oral and written instruction in certain
6 methods an election judge may use to assist or accommodate elderly and disabled
7 voters in voting; requiring the State Board of Elections to develop a certain sign;
8 requiring that a certain sign be a certain size and posted in a certain location; making
9 conforming and stylistic changes; and generally relating to accommodations for
10 voters in need of assistance and election judges.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Election Law
13 Section 10–206 and 10–306
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Election Law**

19 10–206.

20 (a) In consultation with the local boards, the State Board shall:

21 (1) develop a program of instruction of election judges; and

22 (2) oversee the implementation of the program of instruction.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) (1) The training materials [utilized] USED by the program may include:

2 [(1)] (I) an instruction manual and other written directives;

3 [(2)] (II) curriculum for training sessions; and

4 [(3)] (III) audiovisuals.

5 (2) THE TRAINING MATERIALS USED BY THE PROGRAM SHALL
6 INCLUDE ORAL AND WRITTEN INSTRUCTION IN THE VARIOUS METHODS AN
7 ELECTION JUDGE MAY USE TO ASSIST OR ACCOMMODATE ELDERLY AND DISABLED
8 VOTERS IN VOTING AT A POLLING SITE, INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE
9 INDIVIDUALIZED ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE REQUEST OF A VOTER OR AN
10 INDIVIDUAL WHO ACCOMPANIES A VOTER IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE.

11 (c) The State Board shall develop a process for the evaluation of the training
12 program and the performance of the polling place staff in each county.

13 (d) To the extent appropriate, the training program shall be specific to each of the
14 voting systems used in polling places in the State.

15 (e) The State Board shall provide election judges with uniform statewide training
16 on the voting system, including:

17 (1) all features of the voting system that provide access to voters with
18 disabilities; and

19 (2) the rights of voters with disabilities, including those rights guaranteed
20 by State and federal law.

21 (f) Each local board shall conduct election judge training based on the program
22 developed by the State Board.

23 (g) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, each election
24 judge shall participate in the training program provided for in subsection (a) of this section.

25 (2) An election judge who is appointed under emergency circumstances is
26 not required to attend the course of instruction.

27 10-306.

28 (a) (1) The State Board, in consultation with the election directors of the local
29 boards, shall specify and produce the following informational materials to be posted in each
30 polling place:

31 (i) a specimen ballot for that precinct;

1 (ii) instructions relating to the availability of assistance to elderly
2 and disabled voters **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B)**
3 **OF THIS SECTION;**

4 (iii) information regarding the date of the election and the hours
5 during which the polling places will be open;

6 (iv) instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a vote;

7 (v) instructions for mail-in registrants and first-time voters;

8 (vi) general information on voting rights under applicable federal
9 and State laws and instructions on how to contact the appropriate local board if these rights
10 are alleged to have been violated;

11 (vii) information regarding provisional voting, including:

12 1. information on the right of an individual to cast a
13 provisional ballot;

14 2. how to fill out the provisional ballot application and cast
15 the provisional ballot; and

16 3. the standards that will be applied in determining whether
17 a provisional ballot will be counted; and

18 (viii) general information on federal and State laws regarding
19 prohibitions on acts of fraud and misrepresentation.

20 (2) A local board may produce other materials appropriate for the polling
21 places in the county.

22 **(B) (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP A SIGN THAT STATES THE**
23 **VARIOUS METHODS ELECTION JUDGES MAY USE TO ASSIST OR ACCOMMODATE**
24 **ELDERLY AND DISABLED VOTERS IN VOTING, INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE**
25 **INDIVIDUALIZED ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE REQUEST OF A VOTER OR AN**
26 **INDIVIDUAL WHO ACCOMPANIES A VOTER IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE.**

27 **(2) THE SIGN REQUIRED TO BE DEVELOPED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)**
28 **OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE:**

29 **(I) AT A MINIMUM, 24 INCHES BY 36 INCHES IN SIZE; AND**

30 **(II) POSTED PROMINENTLY AT THE ENTRANCE OF EACH**
31 **POLLING SITE.**

1 **[(b)] (C)** Before the polls open, the election judges for each precinct shall post all
2 information specified under **[subsection] SUBSECTIONS (a) AND (B)** of this section.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2021.