

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 53 (Delegate Ivey, *et al.*)
Ways and Means and Judiciary

Election Law - Voting Rights - Imprisoned Felons

This bill repeals the State law provision that establishes that an individual is not qualified to be a registered voter if the individual has been convicted of a felony and is currently serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment for the conviction. The bill also repeals the corresponding prohibition against such a person voting or attempting to vote during the time that they are rendered ineligible.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under State law, with certain exceptions, an individual may register to vote if the individual is a citizen of the United States, is at least age 16, and is a resident of the State as of the day the individual seeks to register. A person who has been convicted of a felony and is currently serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment for the conviction is not qualified to be a registered voter.

A person who has been convicted of a felony and is currently serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment for the conviction, and has been rendered ineligible to vote pursuant to State voter registration qualification provisions, may not vote or attempt to vote during the time that the person is rendered ineligible to vote. A person who violates that

prohibition is guilty of a felony and subject to imprisonment for at least one year and up to five years.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Human Services; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Maryland Department of Transportation; Health Benefit Exchange; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510