$\begin{array}{c} \text{G1} \\ \text{CF HB 775} \end{array}$

By: Senators Brooks, Hettleman, Klausmeier, Salling, Lam, Gile, Muse, and Simonaire

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024 Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

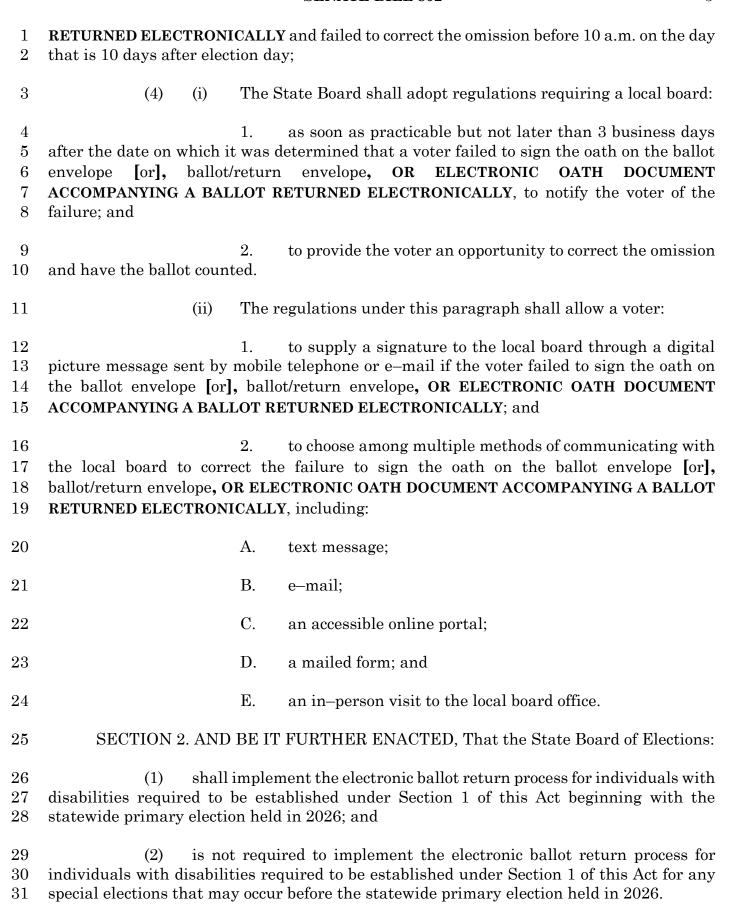
1	AN ACT concerning
2	Election Law – Voters With Disabilities – Electronic Ballot Return
3	FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Elections to establish a process by which
4	an individual with disabilities may return a marked absentee ballot to a local board
5 6	of elections electronically; and generally relating to electronic ballot return for voters with disabilities.
7	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8	Article – Election Law
9	Section 9–308.1(a), 9–310(c), 11–302(a)(2) and (d)(3)(i) and (4)
10	Annotated Code of Maryland
11	(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
12	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13	Article – Election Law
14	Section 9–308.1(b)
15	Annotated Code of Maryland
16	(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
17	BY adding to
18	Article – Election Law
19	Section 9–310.1
20	Annotated Code of Maryland
21	(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
22	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
23	That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Election Law

24



- 1 9-308.1. 2 In this section: (a) 3 (1) "online ballot marking tool" includes a system that allows a voter to: 4 (i) access a blank ballot through the Internet; 5 (ii) electronically mark the ballot with the voter's selections; and 6 1. (iii) print a paper copy of the marked ballot for mailing to a 7 local board; [and 8 "online ballot marking tool" does not include a system that is capable of (2)9 storing, tabulating, or transmitting votes or voted ballots by electronic or electromagnetic 10 means through the Internet] OR 11 2. RETURN THE MARKED BALLOT ELECTRONICALLY AS 12 PROVIDED IN § 9–310.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE. 13 The State Board may provide an accessible optional online ballot marking tool for use by a voter who requested to have the absentee ballot sent by the Internet. 14 15 9-310.16 If an absentee ballot is sent by the Internet or facsimile transmission, the local board shall provide the voter with an **OPTIONAL** envelope template, the oath prescribed by 17 the State Board, and instructions for marking and returning the absentee ballot. 18 19 9–310.1. THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH A PROCESS BY WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL 20 21WITH DISABILITIES, AS DEFINED IN THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, MAY 22 RETURN A MARKED ABSENTEE BALLOT TO A LOCAL BOARD ELECTRONICALLY. 23 11 - 302.24(2)Promptly after receipt of an absentee ballot, a local board shall review the ballot envelope [or], ballot/return envelope, OR ELECTRONIC OATH DOCUMENT 25ACCOMPANYING A BALLOT RETURNED ELECTRONICALLY for the omission of the voter's 2627 signature on the oath. 28 (d) (3)The local board shall reject an absentee ballot if:
- 29 the voter failed to sign the oath on the ballot envelope [or], 30 ballot/return envelope, OR ELECTRONIC OATH DOCUMENT ACCOMPANYING A BALLOT



SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect January 1, 2025.