Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly 2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE First Reader

House Bill 951 Ways and Means (Delegate Fair)

County Boards of Education - Voter Registration Link - Posting Requirement

This bill requires each county board of education to post on the main page of its website (1) a link to the voter registration webpage maintained on the website of the State Board of Elections (SBE) or the local board of elections of that county and (2) a statement that the link may be selected if the user is at least 16 years old. On selecting the link to the voter registration webpage, the user must be prompted to verify that the user is at least 16 years old. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Local boards of education can implement the bill's requirements with existing resources.

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.

An individual may apply to become a registered voter through a number of means including (1) visiting an election board office; (2) by mail; (3) when applying for services at a voter registration agency (specified public and nongovernmental agencies designated by SBE, including agencies providing public assistance and services for individuals with

disabilities, public higher education institutions, military recruiting offices, and one-stop career centers in the Maryland Department of Labor); (4) during an applicable transaction at automatic voter registration agencies, which are the Motor Vehicle Administration, the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, local departments of social services, and the Mobility Certification Office in the Maryland Transit Administration; (5) through SBE's online voter registration system; or (6) at an early voting center or an election day polling place in their county of residence.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 468 of 2023.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Public Schools; Kent and Washington counties; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland State Board of Elections; Baltimore County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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