

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1110
Ways and Means

(Delegate Wilkins)

Election Law - Individuals Released From State Correctional Facilities -
Automatic Restoration of Voter Registration

This bill requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to, on a weekly basis, electronically transmit to the State Board of Elections (SBE) a list that includes the name and new residential address of each individual who was released from incarceration at a State correctional facility in the preceding week. On receipt of the list, SBE must (1) identify each individual on the list who was registered to vote in the State before being incarcerated and whose new residential address is located in the State and (2) automatically restore the voter registration of such individuals at their new residential address and give them active voter status. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be implemented with existing resources.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Voter Qualifications

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.

Reports on Individuals Convicted of a Felony and Sentenced to Imprisonment

Each month, the clerk of the circuit court for each county and the administrative clerk for each District Court must report to the State Administrator of Elections the names and addresses of all individuals convicted, in the respective court, of a felony and sentenced to imprisonment with commitment papers. The information must be reported in a format and at times prescribed by SBE. In addition, the State Administrator must make arrangements with the clerk of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland to receive reports of names and addresses, if available, of individuals convicted of a felony in that court and sentenced to imprisonment with commitment papers.

Voting Information/Material Provided to Released Individuals

DPSCS must (1) provide each individual who is released from a correctional facility with a voter registration application and documentation with the individual's discharge papers that informs the individual that the individual's voting rights have been restored; (2) display a sign in each parole and probation office, in a conspicuous location where notices to the public are customarily posted, indicating that any individual who is no longer incarcerated has the right to vote; and (3) post a notice, in a conspicuous location on the department's website, indicating that any individual who is no longer incarcerated has the right to vote.

Voter Registration

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 the 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 not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

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