

SENATE BILL 709

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By: **Senator Kagan**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Absentee Ballots – Internet–Delivered Absentee Ballot Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Elections to submit a report on the costs
4 and resources required to process Internet–delivered absentee ballots during
5 elections in the State to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a
6 certain date; and generally relating to absentee ballots.

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
8 That:

9 (a) On or before September 1, 2024, the State Board of Elections shall submit to
10 the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee and the House Ways and
11 Means Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, a report
12 on the costs and resources required to process Internet–delivered absentee ballots during
13 elections in the State.

14 (b) The report required under this section shall include information on:

15 (1) for each county, the total number of Internet–delivered absentee ballots
16 requested by voters and the number of absentee ballots requested by each method of
17 delivery;

18 (2) staffing requirements, including the number of additional staff needed
19 to process Internet–delivered absentee ballots and staffing recruitment and training
20 considerations;

21 (3) space, facility, storage, and equipment requirements;

22 (4) security measures;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) processing times, including documented delays and reasons for any
2 delays; and

3 (6) any impacts on other concurrent and ongoing election administration
4 processes.

5 (c) In completing the report, the State Board of Elections shall use data from all
6 the local boards of elections from the primary elections in the years 2020, 2022, and 2024
7 and general elections in the years 2020 and 2022.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
9 1, 2024.