

**By: Chairman, Commerce and Government Matters Committee (Departmental - Elections, State Board of)**

Requested: November 8, 1995

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 1996

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elections - Write-in Candidates**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the deadline by which a write-in candidate shall file the  
4 certificate of candidacy for election; and generally relating to write-in campaigns.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article 33 - Election Code  
7 Section 4D-1  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
11 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

12 **Article 33 - Election Code**

13 4D-1.

14 (a) Any person or combination of two or more persons who expends \$51 or more  
15 to organize, promote, or assist in any manner the success of any person or persons seeking  
16 to obtain write-in votes for any public office to be filled at a general election is a political  
17 committee for the purposes of this article.

18 (b) A write-in candidate is required to file a certificate of candidacy for election.  
19 The certificate shall be filed with the same agency as if the write-in candidate were filing  
20 for office under § 4A-2 of this article. The certificate may be filed without payment of a  
21 filing fee.

22 (c) The certificate of candidacy for election of a write-in candidate shall be filed  
23 no later than 7 days after a total expenditure of \$51 is made by him or in his behalf by a  
24 committee authorized by him to promote his candidacy, but shall not be filed later than  
25 5:00 p.m. on the [day] WEDNESDAY preceding the day of the election for which the  
26 certificate is filed.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 1996.

