

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 **Election Laws - Polling Places - Electioneering**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing certain provisions that prohibit certain electioneering
4 activity within a certain radius of a polling place in certain subdivisions of the State;
5 and generally relating to illegal electioneering at polling places.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article 33 - Election Code
8 Section 24-23(a)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

13 **Article 33 - Election Code**

14 24-23.

15 (a) The following offenses shall be punished as in this section provided. For any
16 person:

17 (1) Wilfully to destroy or deface any ballot or, except as provided in this
18 article, to take or remove any ballot outside of the building in which voting occurs, before
19 the close of the polls; or

20 (2) Wilfully to delay the delivery of any ballot; or

21 (3) On or before the day of any election to have or retain in his possession
22 any official ballot printed for said election unless such possession by him is necessary or
23 appropriate and designed for the purpose of carrying out the true intent and meaning of
24 this article; or

25 (4) [(i)] To canvass, electioneer or post any campaign material in the
26 polling place or beyond a line established by signs posted in accordance with this
27 paragraph. At each polling place, 2 election judges, 1 from each principal political party,
28 shall be designated by the election board and, acting jointly, shall post signs outlining a

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1 line around the entrance and exit of the building closest to that part of the building in
2 which voting occurs. The line shall be located as near as practicable to 100 feet from the
3 entrance and exit and shall be established after consideration of the configuration of the
4 entrance and the effect of placement on public safety and the flow of pedestrian and
5 vehicular traffic. The signs shall contain the following or comparable language: "No
6 Electioneering Beyond this Point".

7 (ii) In Anne Arundel, Cecil, Charles, Garrett, Harford, Kent, and
8 Queen Anne's Counties, to canvass, electioneer, or post any campaign literature or
9 material on election day in a polling place or within a 300 foot radius from the entrance
10 and exit of the building closest to that part of the building in which voting occurs.]

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