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**By: Delegate Bozman**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1996

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law - Voting Systems - Ballots Not Voted**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that certain voting systems automatically accept and count

4 a ballot that a voter has intentionally left blank without having to be reprogrammed,

5 reset, or adjusted by an election judge.

6 BY adding to

7 Article 33 - Election Code

8 Section 16B-5

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 16B-5.

15 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A VOTING SYSTEM IN WHICH BALLOTS

16 ARE ELECTRONICALLY TABULATED AT THE POLLING PLACE.

17 (B) A SYSTEM CERTIFIED BY THE STATE BOARD SHALL AUTOMATICALLY

18 ACCEPT AND COUNT A BALLOT THAT HAS NOT BEEN VOTED WITHOUT HAVING TO

19 BE REPROGRAMMED, RESET, OR ADJUSTED IN ANY WAY THAT DISCLOSES A

20 VOTER'S CHOICE TO INTENTIONALLY LEAVE THE BALLOT BLANK.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect

22 October 1, 1996.