
By: Senator Craig

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 1997

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Laws - Ballot Access**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the minimum number of signatures of certain registered
4 voters required to have the name of a candidate seeking statewide office placed on
5 the ballot under the provisions of law authorizing nomination by petition.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article 33 - Election Code
8 Section 7-1(b)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 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 7-1.

15 (b) (1) A candidate for public office seeking nomination by petition shall file:

16 (i) A declaration of [his] intent to seek nomination by petition, in a
17 form prescribed by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws, at the time and
18 place provided in Subtitle 4A of this article for filing, by other candidates, of certificates
19 of candidacy. A candidate seeking nomination by petition may not be charged a fee for
20 filing a declaration of intent. A declaration of intent is not required of any candidate for
21 public office in a year in which the President of the United States is elected.

22 (ii) A certificate of candidacy not later than 5 p.m. on the first Monday
23 in August in the year in which the general election is to be held at the place and in the
24 manner provided in Subtitle 4A of this article and shall comply with all other applicable
25 provisions of the subtitle, in the same manner as candidates for nomination at a primary
26 election.

27 (2) (I) [In] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
28 PARAGRAPH, IN order to have the name of a proposed candidate placed on the ballot
29 under this section, the candidate shall file with the appropriate board petitions signed by
30 not less than 3 percent of the registered voters who are eligible to vote for the office for

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1 which the nomination by petition is sought. [Petitions shall be filed as required by
2 subsection (c) of this section.]

3 (II) IN ORDER TO HAVE THE NAME OF A PROPOSED CANDIDATE
4 FOR A PUBLIC OFFICE FOR WHICH THE VOTERS OF THE ENTIRE STATE MAY VOTE
5 PLACED ON THE BALLOT UNDER THIS SECTION, THE CANDIDATE SHALL FILE WITH
6 THE APPROPRIATE BOARD PETITIONS SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 1 PERCENT OF
7 THE REGISTERED VOTERS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE FOR THE OFFICE FOR
8 WHICH THE NOMINATION BY PETITION IS SOUGHT.

9 (III) TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBPARAGRAPHS (I) AND (II)
10 OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A PETITION SHALL BE FILED AS REQUIRED UNDER
11 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

12 (3) For purposes of this subsection, the number of registered voters shall be
13 determined as of the commencement of the period, specified in § 3-8(b)(2) of this article,
14 before the primary election for which the nomination is sought.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 1997.