

HOUSE BILL 120

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1998 Regular Session
8r0639
CF 8r1223

By: **Delegates Arnick and Getty (Commission to Revise the Election Code)**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 1998

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: February 11, 1998

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Voter Registration - Last Four Digits of Social Security Number**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that each voter registration application shall require an
4 applicant to provide the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security
5 number; providing that an applicant may not become a registered voter unless
6 the applicant provides the last four digits of his or her Social Security number;
7 specifying an exception; requiring the State Administrative Board of Election
8 Laws to ensure that all voter registration applications require applicants to
9 provide the last four digits of their Social Security number; requiring the State
10 Board to develop certain guidelines to ensure that the last four digits of a
11 registered voter's Social Security number are not made available for public
12 inspection or provided on any copy of a voter registration list; requiring each
13 county board of elections to implement a plan to obtain the last four digits of the
14 Social Security numbers of voters currently registered; providing for a delayed
15 effective date; and generally relating to voter registration requirements.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article 33 - Election Code
18 Section 3-202(a)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)
21 (As enacted by Chapter _____(S.B. _____/H.B. _____)(8r0487) of the Acts of the
22 General Assembly of 1998)

23 BY adding to
24 Article 33 - Election Code
25 Section 3-202(d) and (e)

1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)
3 (As enacted by Chapter _____(S.B. _____/H.B. _____)(8lr0487) of the Acts of the
4 General Assembly of 1998)

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

7 **Article 33 - Election Code**

8 3-202.

9 (a) (1) The statewide voter registration application shall:

10 (i) State the qualifications to become a registered voter;

11 (ii) REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO PROVIDE THE LAST FOUR DIGITS
12 OF THE APPLICANT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER;

13 (iii) (III) Require the signature of the applicant, subject to the penalties
14 of perjury, by which the applicant swears or affirms that the information contained in
15 the registration application is true and that the applicant meets all of the
16 qualifications to become a registered voter;

17 [(iii)] (IV) State the penalties for the submission of a false
18 application;

19 [(iv)] (V) State that if an individual declines to register, this fact
20 will remain confidential and be used only for voter registration purposes;

21 [(v)] (VI) State that if an individual registers to vote, the office at
22 which the application is submitted will remain confidential and will be used only for
23 voter registration purposes;

24 [(vi)] (VII) Notify the applicant that submission of the form to an
25 individual other than an official, employee, or agent of a local board does not assure
26 that the form will be filed or filed in a timely manner;

27 [(vii)] (VIII) Provide the applicant with the opportunity to cancel a
28 current registration; and

29 [(viii)] (IX) Use identically sized print for the information that is
30 required to be stated by this paragraph.

31 (2) The statewide voter registration application may not require:

32 (i) Notarization or other formal authentication; or

1 (ii) Any additional information, other than the information
2 necessary to enable election officials to determine the eligibility of the applicant and
3 to administer voter registration and other parts of the election process.

4 (3) (i) A statewide voter registration application shall be produced
5 exclusively by the State Board.

6 (ii) No other registration form may be used for registration
7 purposes except:

8 1. A local board may produce a voter registration application
9 with the approval of the State Board;

10 2. As provided in subsection (b) of this section; and

11 3. As provided in § 3-203(b) of this subtitle.

12 (D) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN
13 APPLICANT DOES NOT QUALIFY TO BECOME A REGISTERED VOTER UNLESS THE
14 APPLICANT PROVIDES THE LAST FOUR DIGITS OF THE APPLICANT'S SOCIAL
15 SECURITY NUMBER.

16 (2) PURSUANT TO GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD, A
17 LOCAL BOARD SHALL QUALIFY AN APPLICANT WHO DOES NOT HAVE A SOCIAL
18 SECURITY NUMBER.

19 (E) (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ENSURE THAT EVERY VOTER
20 REGISTRATION APPLICATION USED IN THIS STATE REQUIRES AN APPLICANT TO
21 PROVIDE THE LAST FOUR DIGITS OF THE APPLICANT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.

22 (2) THE STATE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES, TO BE FOLLOWED
23 BY THE STATE BOARD AND THE LOCAL BOARDS, TO ENSURE THAT THE LAST FOUR
24 DIGITS OF A REGISTERED VOTER'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER ARE NOT MADE
25 AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION OR PROVIDED ON ANY COPY OF A VOTER
26 REGISTRATION LIST.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Board of
28 Elections shall adopt guidelines under which each local board shall obtain the last
29 four digits of the Social Security number of each voter currently registered.

30 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 January 1, 1999.

