

HOUSE BILL 850

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HB 654/96 - CGM

1998 Regular Session  
8r0857

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By: **Delegates Getty, Rudolph, and Jacobs**  
Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1998  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law - Identification of Voters**

3 FOR the purpose of altering requirements of the Election Code relating to the  
4 identification of voters at the polling place; requiring the State Board of  
5 Elections to conduct a certain education program during the 1998 primary and  
6 general elections; providing a delayed effective date for certain provisions of this  
7 Act; and generally relating to polling place procedures.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article 33 - Election Code  
10 Section 10-310(a)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)  
13 (As enacted by Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ (S.B.118/H.B.127) of the Acts of the General  
14 Assembly of 1998)

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

17 **Article 33 - Election Code**

18 10-310.

19 (a) In accordance with instructions provided by the local board, an election  
20 judge shall qualify a voter by:

21 (1) Locating the voter's name in the precinct register and locating the  
22 preprinted voting authority card;

23 (2) (i) If the voter's name is not found on the precinct register,  
24 searching the inactive list and if the name is found, qualifying the voter for voting as  
25 instructed; or

1 (ii) If the voter's name is not on the inactive list, contacting the  
2 local board office and, if authorized, issuing a temporary certificate of registration, as  
3 provided in § 3-601 of this article;

4 (3) Establishing the identity of the voter by [requesting the voter to  
5 state the month and day of the voter's birth and comparing the response to the  
6 information listed in the precinct register;] REQUIRING THE VOTER TO:

7 (I) PRESENT TO THE ELECTION JUDGE:

8 1. A DRIVER'S LICENSE, IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED BY  
9 THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION, OR VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD; OR

10 2. IF THE VOTER CANNOT PROVIDE A FORM OF  
11 IDENTIFICATION SPECIFIED IN ITEM 1 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, ANY OTHER FORM  
12 OF IDENTIFICATION THAT IS ISSUED BY A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY AND THAT  
13 CONTAINS THE VOTER'S NAME, ADDRESS, AND DATE OF BIRTH; OR

14 (II) IF THE VOTER DOES NOT HAVE ANY FORM OF IDENTIFICATION  
15 DESCRIBED IN ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, ASKING THE VOTER TO STATE HIS OR  
16 HER CURRENT ADDRESS AND DAY AND MONTH OF BIRTH;

17 (4) Verifying the address of the voter's residence AND THE VOTER'S DATE  
18 OF BIRTH;

19 (5) If any changes to the voting authority card are indicated by a voter,  
20 making the appropriate changes in information on the card or other appropriate form;  
21 and

22 (6) Having the voter sign the voting authority card and either issuing the  
23 voter a ballot or sending the voter to a machine to vote.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Administrative  
25 Board of Election Laws, in cooperation with the local election boards, shall conduct an  
26 education program during the 1998 primary and general elections to inform voters of  
27 the identification requirements that will be imposed in elections conducted after  
28 January 1, 1999.

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

31 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall  
32 take effect July 1, 1998.