

SENATE BILL 124

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1998 Regular Session
8r1223
CF 8r0639

By: **Senators Collins and Craig (Commission to Revise the Election Code)**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 1998

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

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 each
10 county board of elections to implement a plan to obtain the last four digits of the
11 Social Security numbers of voters currently registered; providing for a delayed
12 effective date; and generally relating to voter registration requirements.

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

20 BY adding to
21 Article 33 - Election Code
22 Section 3-202(d) and (e)
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)
25 (As enacted by Chapter ____ (S.B. ____/H.B. ____)(8r0487) of the Acts of the
26 General Assembly of 1998)

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

1 **Article 33 - Election Code**

2 3-202.

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

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

5 (ii) REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO PROVIDE THE LAST FOUR DIGITS
6 OF THE APPLICANT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER;7 (iii) Require the signature of the applicant, subject to the penalties
8 of perjury, by which the applicant swears or affirms that the information contained in
9 the registration application is true and that the applicant meets all of the
10 qualifications to become a registered voter;11 [(iii)] (IV) State the penalties for the submission of a false
12 application;13 [(iv)] (V) State that if an individual declines to register, this fact
14 will remain confidential and be used only for voter registration purposes;15 [(v)] (VI) State that if an individual registers to vote, the office at
16 which the application is submitted will remain confidential and will be used only for
17 voter registration purposes;18 [(vi)] (VII) Notify the applicant that submission of the form to an
19 individual other than an official, employee, or agent of a local board does not assure
20 that the form will be filed or filed in a timely manner;21 [(vii)] (VIII) Provide the applicant with the opportunity to cancel a
22 current registration; and23 [(viii)] (IX) Use identically sized print for the information that is
24 required to be stated by this paragraph.

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

26 (i) Notarization or other formal authentication; or

27 (ii) Any additional information, other than the information
28 necessary to enable election officials to determine the eligibility of the applicant and
29 to administer voter registration and other parts of the election process.30 (3) (i) A statewide voter registration application shall be produced
31 exclusively by the State Board.32 (ii) No other registration form may be used for registration
33 purposes except:

- 1 1. A local board may produce a voter registration application
2 with the approval of the State Board;
- 3 2. As provided in subsection (b) of this section; and
- 4 3. As provided in § 3-203(b) of this subtitle.

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

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

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

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

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