

**HOUSE BILL 472**  
**EMERGENCY BILL**

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1999 Regular Session  
9r1827

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By: **Delegate Arnick**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 1999

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 1999

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elections - Candidates - Petition Signatures**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring candidates for certain political offices in a certain year  
4 to include with a certificate of candidacy a petition containing the signatures of  
5 a certain number of registered voters eligible to vote for the candidate; ~~providing~~  
6 ~~for a delayed effective date~~ making this Act an emergency measure; providing  
7 for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to certificates of  
8 candidacy.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article 33 - Election Code  
11 Section 5-302  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

16 **Article 33 - Election Code**

17 5-302.

18 (a) A certificate of candidacy shall be filed under oath on the prescribed form.

19 (b) The certificate of candidacy shall be filed with the State Board if the  
20 candidacy is for:

21 (1) An office to be voted upon by the voters of the entire State;

- 1 (2) The General Assembly of Maryland;
- 2 (3) Representative in Congress;
- 3 (4) The office of judge of the circuit court for a county; or
- 4 (5) An office of elected delegates to a presidential national convention  
5 provided for under Title 8, Subtitle 5 of this article.

6 (c) If the candidacy is for an office other than an office described in subsection  
7 (b) of this section, the certificate of candidacy shall be filed with the local board of the  
8 applicable county.

9 (D) IN THE YEAR 2000 ONLY, A CANDIDATE FOR AN OFFICE DESCRIBED IN  
10 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE WITH A CERTIFICATE OF  
11 CANDIDACY A PETITION IN SUPPORT OF THE CANDIDACY THAT CONTAINS THE  
12 SIGNATURES OF AT LEAST ~~400~~ 250 REGISTERED VOTERS WHO WOULD BE ELIGIBLE  
13 TO VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE IN THE ELECTION.

14 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect~~  
15 ~~January 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of~~  
16 ~~December 31, 2000, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act~~  
17 ~~shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an  
19 emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health  
20 and safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all of  
21 the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall  
22 take effect from the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective until December 31,  
23 2000, and with no further action required by the General Assembly, at the end of  
24 December 31, 2000, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.