
By: **Delegate Wood**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 1999

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law - Notice of Elections**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the method of giving notice of elections to require that a
4 local board of elections provide notice of the election by publication in a
5 newspaper of general circulation in the county if the board does not mail a
6 specimen ballot to each registered voter in the county by a certain date; and
7 generally relating to notice of elections by newspaper publication under certain
8 circumstances.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article 33 - Election Code
11 Section 8-102
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 8-102.

18 (a) Except as required under subsections (d) and (f) of this section, a local
19 board shall provide notice of each election in its county to the registered voters of the
20 county by either:

21 (1) Specimen ballot mailed at least 1 week before the election; or

22 (2) Publication [or dissemination by mass communication] IN
23 NEWSPAPERS OF GENERAL CIRCULATION during the calendar week preceding the
24 election.

25 (b) The notice shall include:

26 (1) The time and place of the election; and

1 (2) The offices, candidate names, and questions contained on the ballot.

2 (c) (1) If a local board provides notice by mailing specimen ballots, a
3 specimen ballot shall be mailed to all registered voters in the county who are eligible
4 to vote in the election.

5 (2) The specimen ballot shall be a facsimile of the ballot that the voter is
6 entitled to vote in the election.

7 (d) (1) In Prince George's County for the general election, the Board shall:

8 (i) Provide notice by mailing specimen ballots; and

9 (ii) Mail a specimen ballot to the household of each registered voter
10 in the County.

11 (2) The costs for mailing specimen ballots in Prince George's County
12 shall be included in the County's annual budget appropriation to the local board.

13 (e) (1) Unless a local board mails a specimen ballot to its registered voters in
14 accordance with subsection (c) or (d) of this section, the local board shall give notice of
15 the election by newspaper publication [or other means of mass communication].

16 (2) The notice of election under this subsection shall be arranged[, if
17 practicable,] in the same order and form as the ballot.

18 (3) (i) If newspaper publication is used in a county, the notice shall be
19 advertised in at least two newspapers of general circulation that are published in the
20 county.

21 (ii) In a county in which only one newspaper is published, the
22 notice shall be published in that newspaper.

23 (f) (1) In the City of Baltimore, the local board:

24 (i) Shall give notice of an election by advertisement in each daily
25 newspaper published in the City; and

26 (ii) May give notice in any weekly or semiweekly newspaper that
27 has a circulation of 20,000 or more subscribers.

28 (2) A newspaper may not charge the local board for Baltimore City a fee
29 for an advertisement under this paragraph that exceeds its rate for commercial
30 advertising.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 October 1, 1999.