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By: **Delegate Wood**  
Introduced and read first time: February 16, 1999  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations  
Re-referred to: Commerce and Government Matters, February 22, 1999

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 22, 1999

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law - Notice of Elections**

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

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article 33 - Election Code  
12 Section 8-102  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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 8-102.

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

- 1 (1) Specimen ballot mailed at least 1 week before the election; or
- 2 (2) Publication [or dissemination by mass communication] IN  
3 NEWSPAPERS OF GENERAL CIRCULATION OR DISSEMINATION BY OTHER MEANS OF  
4 MASS COMMUNICATION during the calendar week preceding the election.
- 5 (b) The notice shall include:
- 6 (1) The time and place of the election; and
- 7 (2) The offices, candidate names, and questions contained on the ballot.
- 8 (c) (1) If a local board provides notice by mailing specimen ballots, a  
9 specimen ballot shall be mailed to all registered voters in the county who are eligible  
10 to vote in the election.
- 11 (2) The specimen ballot shall be a facsimile of the ballot that the voter is  
12 entitled to vote in the election.
- 13 (d) (1) In Prince George's County for the general election, the Board shall:
- 14 (i) Provide notice by mailing specimen ballots; and
- 15 (ii) Mail a specimen ballot to the household of each registered voter  
16 in the County.
- 17 (2) The costs for mailing specimen ballots in Prince George's County  
18 shall be included in the County's annual budget appropriation to the local board.
- 19 (e) (1) Unless a local board mails a specimen ballot to its registered voters in  
20 accordance with subsection (c) or (d) of this section, the local board shall give notice of  
21 the election by newspaper publication ~~for other means of mass communication~~.
- 22 (2) The notice of election under this subsection shall be arranged~~{~~, if  
23 practicable,~~}~~ in the same order and form as the ballot.
- 24 (3) (i) If newspaper publication is used in a county, the notice shall be  
25 advertised in at least two newspapers of general circulation that are published in the  
26 county.
- 27 (ii) In a county in which only one newspaper is published, the  
28 notice shall be published in that newspaper.
- 29 (f) (1) In the City of Baltimore, the local board:
- 30 (i) Shall give notice of an election by advertisement in each daily  
31 newspaper published in the City; and
- 32 (ii) May give notice in any weekly or semiweekly newspaper that  
33 has a circulation of 20,000 or more subscribers.

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

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