Unofficial Copy G1 2000 Regular Session 0lr1354

By: Delegate Zirkin

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000 Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

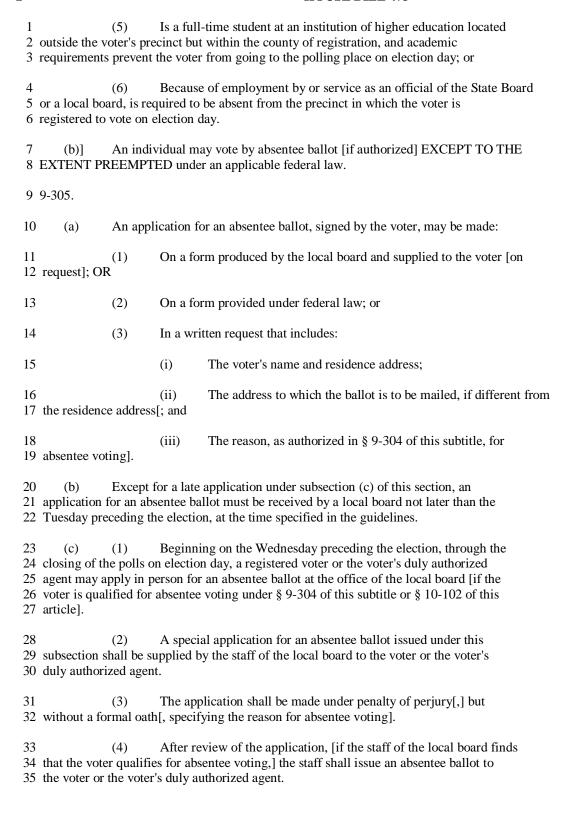
A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Elections - Removal of Qualifications for Absentee Voting

- 3 FOR the purpose of eliminating the circumstances that are required to exist for a
- 4 voter to qualify for voting by absentee ballot; altering the methods for receiving
- 5 and submitting an application for an absentee ballot; and generally relating to
- 6 voting by absentee ballot.
- 7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 8 Article 33 Election Code
- 9 Section 9-304, 9-305, and 10-102
- 10 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 11 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)
- 12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
- 13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
- 14 Article 33 Election Code
- 15 9-304.
- 16 [(a) A registered voter may vote by absentee ballot at an election if the voter:
- 17 Will be absent on election day from the county in which the voter is 18 registered;
- 19 (2) Because of accident, illness, or physical disability, will be unable to go
- 20 to the polling place on election day;
- 21 (2) D C C ...
- 21 (3) Because of confinement in or restriction to an institution, will be
- 22 prevented from going to the polling place on election day;
- 23 (4) Because of a death or serious illness in the voter's immediate family,
- 24 will be unable to go to the polling place on election day;

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- 1 10-102.
- 2 (a) If the polling place assigned to an elderly or disabled voter is not 3 structurally barrier free, the voter may request a reassignment by the local board.
- 4 (b) (1) To qualify for a reassignment by the local board, the voter shall 5 submit a request in writing to the local board not later than the close of registration
- 6 for the election.
- 7 (2) The request may be made on a form prescribed by the State Board.
- 8 (c) On receipt of a request from an elderly or disabled voter under subsection 9 (b) of this section, the local board shall either:
- 10 (1) Assign the voter to an election district, ward, or precinct in the voter's 11 county that contains a structurally barrier free polling place; or
- 12 (2) Issue the voter an absentee ballot in accordance with the procedures
- 13 established under Title 9, Subtitle 3 of this article[, notwithstanding the voter's lack
- 14 of eligibility for an absentee ballot under Title 9, Subtitle 3 of this article].
- 15 (d) Any ballot issued to a voter under subsection (c)(2) of this section shall be 16 identical to the ballot used in the polling place originally assigned to the voter.
- 17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 18 October 1, 2000.