Unofficial Copy G1 2001 Regular Session 1lr0824

By: Delegates Leopold, McIntosh, and Sophocleus

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2001 Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1	A TAT		•
1	AN	ACI	concerning

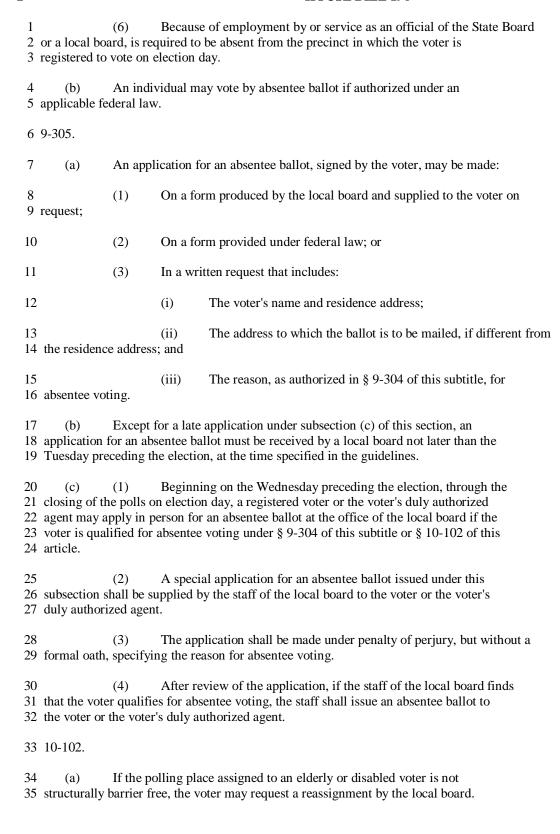
2 Elections - Absentee Voting

- 3 FOR the purpose of altering the circumstances that are required to exist for a voter to
- 4 qualify for voting by absentee ballot; and generally relating to voting by
- 5 absentee ballot.
- 6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 7 Article 33 Election Code
- 8 Section 9-304, 9-305, and 10-102
- 9 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 10 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)
- 11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
- 12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 Article 33 - Election Code

- 14 9-304.
- 15 (a) A registered voter may vote by absentee ballot at an election if the voter:
- 16 (1) [Will] MAY be absent on election day from the county in which the 17 voter is registered;
- 18 (2) Because of accident, illness, or physical disability, will be unable to go 19 to the polling place on election day;
- 20 (3) Because of confinement in or restriction to an institution, will be
- 21 prevented from going to the polling place on election day;
- 22 (4) Because of a death or serious illness in the voter's immediate family,
- 23 will be unable to go to the polling place on election day;
- 24 (5) Is a full-time student at an institution of higher education located
- 25 outside the voter's precinct but within the county of registration, and academic
- 26 requirements prevent the voter from going to the polling place on election day; or

HOUSE BILL 196



HOUSE BILL 196

- 1 (b) (1) To qualify for a reassignment by the local board, the voter shall 2 submit a request in writing to the local board not later than the close of registration 3 for the election.
- 4 (2) The request may be made on a form prescribed by the State Board.
- 5 (c) On receipt of a request from an elderly or disabled voter under subsection 6 (b) of this section, the local board shall either:
- 7 (1) Assign the voter to an election district, ward, or precinct in the voter's 8 county that contains a structurally barrier free polling place; or
- 9 (2) Issue the voter an absentee ballot in accordance with the procedures 10 established under Title 9, Subtitle 3 of this article, notwithstanding the voter's lack of 11 eligibility for an absentee ballot under Title 9, Subtitle 3 of this article.
- 12 (d) Any ballot issued to a voter under subsection (c)(2) of this section shall be 13 identical to the ballot used in the polling place originally assigned to the voter.
- SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 15 October 1, 2001.