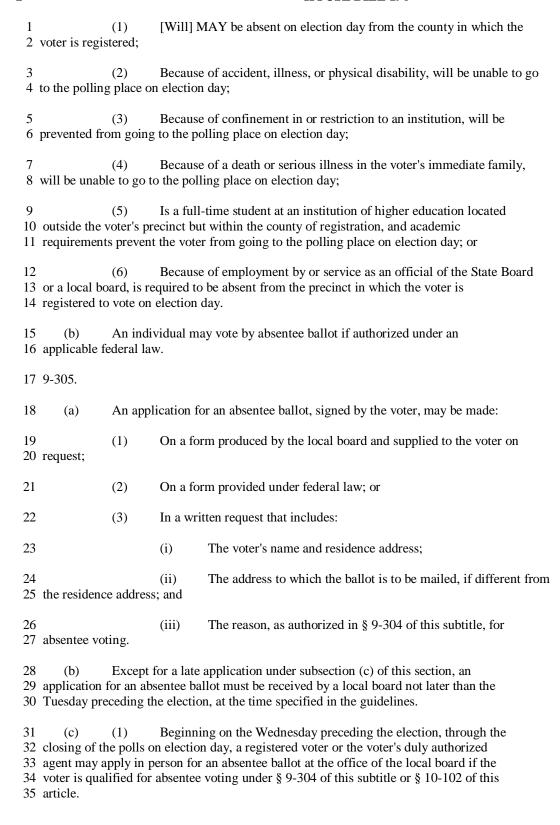
HOUSE BILL 196 SECOND PRINTING

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2001 Regular Session 1lr0824

By: Delegates Leopold, McIntosh, and Sophocleus Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2001 Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters
Committee Report: Favorable with amendments House action: Adopted Read second time: February 13, 2001
CHAPTER
1 AN ACT concerning
2 Elections - Absentee Voting
 FOR the purpose of altering the circumstances that are required to exist for a voter to qualify under which a registered voter qualifies for voting by absentee ballot; and generally relating to voting by absentee ballot. BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article 33 - Election Code Section 9-304, 9-305, and 10-102
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)
11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments, 12 Article 33 - Election Code 13 Section 9-305 and 10-102 14 Annotated Code of Maryland 15 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)
16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
18 Article 33 - Election Code
19 9-304.
20 (a) A registered voter may vote by absentee ballot at an election if the voter:



25

26 October 1, 2001.

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1 (2) A special application for an absentee ballot issued under this 2 subsection shall be supplied by the staff of the local board to the voter or the voter's 3 duly authorized agent. 4 (3) The application shall be made under penalty of perjury, but without a 5 formal oath, specifying the reason for absentee voting. 6 After review of the application, if the staff of the local board finds (4) 7 that the voter qualifies for absentee voting, the staff shall issue an absentee ballot to 8 the voter or the voter's duly authorized agent. 9 10-102. 10 (a) If the polling place assigned to an elderly or disabled voter is not structurally barrier free, the voter may request a reassignment by the local board. 12 (b) To qualify for a reassignment by the local board, the voter shall 13 submit a request in writing to the local board not later than the close of registration 14 for the election. 15 (2)The request may be made on a form prescribed by the State Board. On receipt of a request from an elderly or disabled voter under subsection 16 (c) (b) of this section, the local board shall either: 18 Assign the voter to an election district, ward, or precinct in the voter's (1) 19 county that contains a structurally barrier free polling place; or 20 Issue the voter an absentee ballot in accordance with the procedures 21 established under Title 9, Subtitle 3 of this article, notwithstanding the voter's lack of 22 eligibility for an absentee ballot under Title 9, Subtitle 3 of this article. 23 Any ballot issued to a voter under subsection (c)(2) of this section shall be 24 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