

HOUSE BILL 495

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HB 438/00 - CGM

2001 Regular Session
11r0859

By: **Delegates Hill, R. Baker, Benson, Branch, Brown, Burns, Cole, C. Davis,
D. Davis, Fulton, Gladden, Howard, A. Jones, V. Jones, Montague,
Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Paige, Patterson, Phillips, Proctor, Rawlings,
Kirk, and Swain**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Voter Restoration Act of 2001**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the qualifications for voter registration to allow certain
4 felons who have been convicted of certain crimes more than once but who have
5 completed the sentence imposed, including any probation, who otherwise are
6 qualified to be registered voters, and if a certain period of time has elapsed, to
7 register to vote, provided a certain additional period beyond the completion of
8 the sentence imposed has elapsed; prohibiting certain felons who are convicted
9 of certain crimes of violence from being deemed qualified to be registered voters;
10 and generally relating to the rights of certain felons to register to vote in the
11 State.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article 33 - Election Code
14 Section 3-102
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article 33 - Election Code**

20 3-102.

21 (a) Except as provided in [subsection (b)] SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C) of this
22 section, an individual may become registered to vote if the individual:

23 (1) Is a citizen of the United States;

24 (2) Is at least 18 years old or will be 18 years old on or before the day of
25 the next succeeding general or special election;

1 (3) Is a resident of the county as of the day the individual seeks to
2 register; and

3 (4) Registers pursuant to this title.

4 (b) An individual is not qualified to be a registered voter if the individual:

5 (1) Has been convicted of theft or other infamous crime, unless the
6 individual:

7 (i) Has been pardoned; or

8 (ii) 1. In connection with a first conviction, has completed the
9 sentence imposed for the conviction, including probation; OR

10 2. IN CONNECTION WITH A SUBSEQUENT CONVICTION, HAS
11 COMPLETED THE SENTENCE IMPOSED FOR THE CONVICTION, INCLUDING
12 PROBATION, AND AT LEAST 5 YEARS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE COMPLETION OF THE
13 SENTENCE IMPOSED FOR THE CONVICTION, INCLUDING PROBATION;

14 (2) Is under guardianship for mental disability; or

15 (3) Has been convicted of buying or selling votes.

16 (C) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, AN INDIVIDUAL
17 WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME OF VIOLENCE AS DEFINED UNDER ARTICLE
18 27, § 643B OF THE CODE IS NOT QUALIFIED TO BE A REGISTERED VOTER.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2001.