
By: **Prince George's County Delegation**
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County - Specimen Ballots**
3 **PG 405-01**

4 FOR the purpose of expanding certain requirements for the distribution of specimen
5 ballots in Prince George's County by requiring the mailing of a specimen ballot
6 to the household of each registered voter in the County before a primary election
7 and to each registered voter in the County before the general election; requiring
8 the Prince George's County Council to provide a budget allocation for the cost of
9 mailing the specimen ballots; and generally relating to specimen ballots in
10 Prince George's County.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article 33 - Election Code
13 Section 8-102
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 8-102.

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

- 23 (1) Specimen ballot mailed at least 1 week before the election; or
- 24 (2) Publication or dissemination by mass communication during the
25 calendar week preceding the election.

26 (b) The notice shall include:

1 (1) The time and place of the election; and

2 (2) The offices, candidate names, and questions contained on the ballot.

3 (c) (1) If a local board provides notice by mailing specimen ballots, a
4 specimen ballot shall be mailed to all registered voters in the county who are eligible
5 to vote in the election.

6 (2) The specimen ballot shall be a facsimile of the ballot that the voter is
7 entitled to vote in the election.

8 (d) (1) In Prince George's County for BOTH THE PRIMARY AND the general
9 election, the Board shall[:

10 (i) Provide] PROVIDE notice by mailing specimen ballots[; and].

11 [(ii)] (2) [Mail] FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, THE BOARD SHALL
12 MAIL A SPECIMEN BALLOT TO EACH REGISTERED VOTER IN THE COUNTY.

13 (3) FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION, THE BOARD SHALL MAIL a specimen
14 ballot to the household of each registered voter in the county.

15 [(2)] (4) The costs for mailing specimen ballots in Prince George's
16 County shall be included in the County's annual budget appropriation to the local
17 board.

18 (e) (1) Unless a local board mails a specimen ballot to its registered voters in
19 accordance with subsection (c) or (d) of this section, the local board shall give notice of
20 the election by newspaper publication or other means of mass communication.

21 (2) The notice of election under this subsection shall be arranged, if
22 practicable, in the same order and form as the ballot.

23 (3) (i) If newspaper publication is used in a county, the notice shall be
24 advertised in at least two newspapers of general circulation that are published in the
25 county.

26 (ii) In a county in which only one newspaper is published, the
27 notice shall be published in that newspaper.

28 (f) (1) In the City of Baltimore, the local board:

29 (i) Shall give notice of an election by advertisement in each daily
30 newspaper published in the City; and

31 (ii) May give notice in any weekly or semiweekly newspaper that
32 has a circulation of 20,000 or more subscribers.

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

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