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By: **Senators McFadden, Blount, Bromwell, and Hoffman**  
Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2001  
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Election Law - Baltimore City - Required Notice of Elections by Newspaper**  
3                                   **Advertisement - Repeal**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that the Baltimore City Board of  
5 Elections give notice of elections by advertisement in each daily newspaper  
6 published in the City; and generally relating to notice of elections in Baltimore  
7 City.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article 33 - Election Code  
10 Section 8-102  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

15                                   **Article 33 - Election Code**

16 8-102.

17 (a) Except as required under [subsections (d) and (f)] SUBSECTION (D) of this  
18 section, a local board shall provide notice of each election in its county to the  
19 registered voters of the county by either:

20                   (1) Specimen ballot mailed at least 1 week before the election; or

21                   (2) Publication or dissemination by mass communication during the  
22 calendar week preceding the election.

23 (b) The notice shall include:

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

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

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

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

6 (d) (1) In Prince George's County for the general election, the Board shall:

7 (i) Provide notice by mailing specimen ballots; and

8 (ii) Mail a specimen ballot to the household of each registered voter  
9 in the County.

10 (2) The costs for mailing specimen ballots in Prince George's County  
11 shall be included in the County's annual budget appropriation to the local board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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