

HOUSE BILL 535

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HB 495/01 - CGM

2002 Regular Session
2lr0679
CF 2lr0844

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

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2002
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law - Voter Registration - Felons**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the qualifications for voter registration to allow an
4 individual who has been convicted of a certain crime to qualify to be a registered
5 voter if the individual has completed the sentence imposed for the conviction,
6 including probation; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this
7 Act; and generally relating to the qualifications of individuals to register to vote
8 in the State.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article 33 - Election Code
11 Section 3-102
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article - Election Law
16 Section 3-102
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (As enacted by Chapter ___(S.B. 1) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002)

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

21 **Article 33 - Election Code**

22 3-102.

23 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, an individual may
24 become registered to vote if the individual:

- 1 (1) Is a citizen of the United States;
- 2 (2) Is at least 18 years old or will be 18 years old on or before the day of
3 the next succeeding general or special election;
- 4 (3) Is a resident of the county as of the day the individual seeks to
5 register; and
- 6 (4) Registers pursuant to this title.
- 7 (b) An individual is not qualified to be a registered voter if the individual:
- 8 (1) Has been convicted of theft or other infamous crime, unless the
9 individual:
- 10 (i) Has been pardoned; or
- 11 (ii) [In connection with a first conviction, has] HAS completed the
12 COURT-ORDERED sentence imposed for the conviction, including probation, PAROLE,
13 COMMUNITY SERVICE, RESTITUTIONS, AND FINES;
- 14 (2) Is under guardianship for mental disability; or
- 15 (3) Has been convicted of buying or selling votes.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
17 read as follows:

18 **Article - Election Law**

19 3-102.

- 20 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, an individual may
21 become registered to vote if the individual:
- 22 (1) Is a citizen of the United States;
- 23 (2) Is at least 18 years old or will be 18 years old on or before the day of
24 the next succeeding general or special election;
- 25 (3) Is a resident of the county as of the day the individual seeks to
26 register; and
- 27 (4) Registers pursuant to this title.
- 28 (b) An individual is not qualified to be a registered voter if the individual:
- 29 (1) Has been convicted of theft or other infamous crime, unless the
30 individual:
- 31 (i) Has been pardoned; or

1 (ii) [In connection with a first conviction, has] HAS completed the
2 COURT-ORDERED sentence imposed for the conviction, including probation, PAROLE,
3 COMMUNITY SERVICE, RESTITUTIONS, AND FINES;

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

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

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act
7 shall take effect October 1, 2002. It shall remain effective until the taking effect of
8 Section 2 of this Act. If Section 2 of this Act takes effect, Section 1 of this Act shall be
9 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

10 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the
11 provisions of Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect January 1, 2003.