Unofficial Copy G1 HB 336/99 - CGM 2002 Regular Session 2lr0464

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By: Prince George's County Delegation

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2002 Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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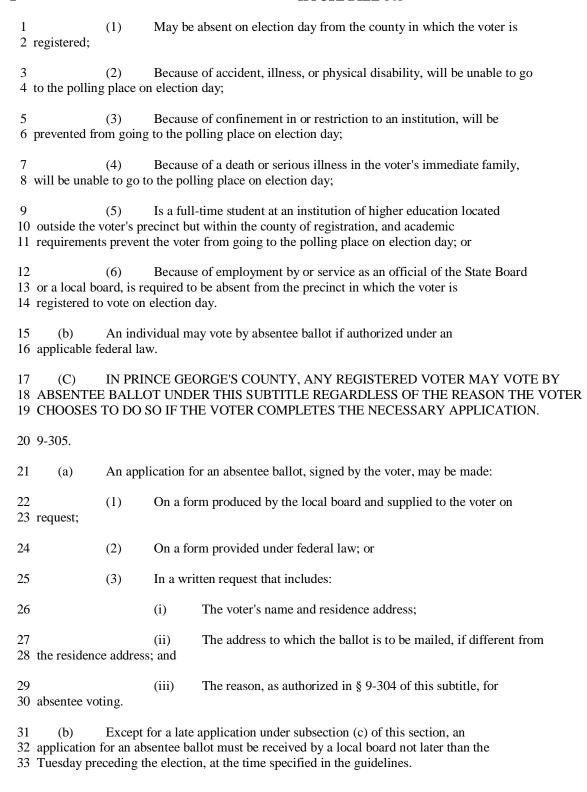
## A BILL ENTITLED

# 1 AN ACT concerning

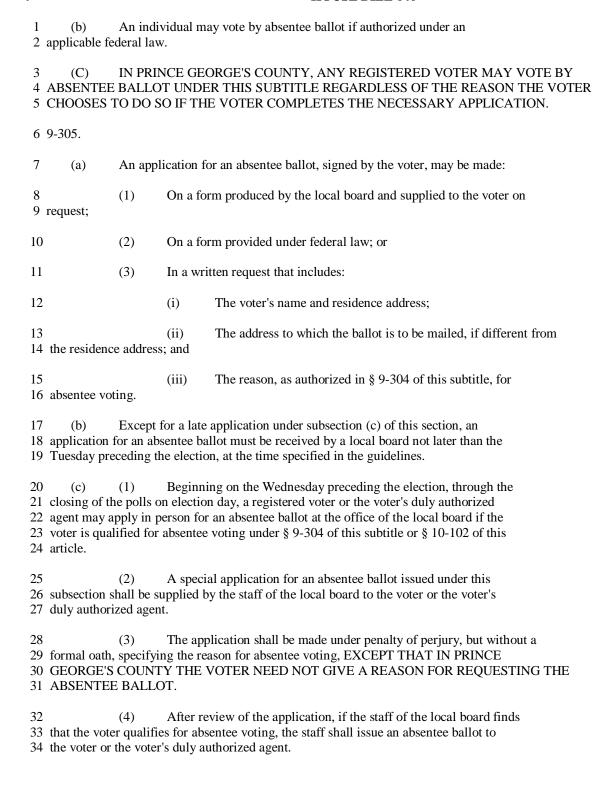
- Prince George's County Elections Absentee Ballots Removal of Eligibility Requirements
- 4 PG 406-02
- 5 FOR the purpose of exempting registered voters, in Prince George's County, from
- 6 certain eligibility requirements for voting by absentee ballot; exempting
- 7 registered voters in Prince George's County from the requirement that an
- 8 applicant specify the reason for voting by absentee ballot; providing for the
- 9 termination of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to expanding
- the eligibility for voting by absentee ballot in Prince George's County.
- 11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 12 Article 33 Election Code
- 13 Section 9-304 and 9-305
- 14 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 15 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)
- 16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 17 Article Election Law
- 18 Section 9-304 and 9-305
- 19 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 20 (As enacted by Chapter \_\_\_ (S.B. 1) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002)
- 21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
- 22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
- 23 Article 33 Election Code

24 9-304.

- 25 (a) [A] SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A registered voter
- 26 may vote by absentee ballot at an election if the voter:



1 (c) (1) Beginning on the Wednesday preceding the election, through the 2 closing of the polls on election day, a registered voter or the voter's duly authorized 3 agent may apply in person for an absentee ballot at the office of the local board if the 4 voter is qualified for absentee voting under § 9-304 of this subtitle or § 10-102 of this 5 article. 6 A special application for an absentee ballot issued under this subsection shall be supplied by the staff of the local board to the voter or the voter's 8 duly authorized agent. 9 The application shall be made under penalty of perjury, but without a 10 formal oath, specifying the reason for absentee voting, EXCEPT THAT IN PRINCE 11 GEORGE'S COUNTY THE VOTER NEED NOT GIVE A REASON FOR REQUESTING THE 12 ABSENTEE BALLOT. 13 (4) After review of the application, if the staff of the local board finds 14 that the voter qualifies for absentee voting, the staff shall issue an absentee ballot to 15 the voter or the voter's duly authorized agent. SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland 16 17 read as follows: **Article - Election Law** 18 19 9-304. 20 [A] SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A registered voter 21 may vote by absentee ballot at an election if the voter: 22 (1) May be absent on election day from the county in which the voter is 23 registered; 24 Because of accident, illness, or physical disability, will be unable to go 25 to the polling place on election day; Because of confinement in or restriction to an institution, will be 26 prevented from going to the polling place on election day; Because of a death or serious illness in the voter's immediate family, 28 29 will be unable to go to the polling place on election day; Is a full-time student at an institution of higher education located 30 31 outside the voter's precinct but within the county of registration, and academic 32 requirements prevent the voter from going to the polling place on election day; or 33 Because of employment by or service as an official of the State Board 34 or a local board, is required to be absent from the precinct in which the voter is 35 registered to vote on election day.



- 1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act
- 2 shall take effect October 1, 2002. It shall remain effective until the taking effect of
- 3 Section 2 of this Act. If Section 2 of this Act takes effect, Section 1 of this Act shall be
- 4 abrogated and of no further force and effect.
- 5 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the 6 provisions of Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect January 1, 2003.