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By: **Chairman, Ways and Means Committee (By Request - Departmental - Elections, State Board of)**

Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2003

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Election Modernization Fund**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a special, continuing, nonlapsing fund for the  
4 purpose of upgrading election equipment and related purposes; specifying the  
5 sources and uses of the fund; providing for the effective date of this Act; and  
6 generally relating to the Maryland Election Modernization Fund.

7 BY adding to  
8 Article - Election Law  
9 Section 2-107  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2003 Volume)

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

14 **Article - Election Law**

15 2-107.

16 (A) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND ELECTION MODERNIZATION FUND.

17 (2) THE FUND IS ESTABLISHED AS A CONTINUING FUND FOR PROGRAMS  
18 RELATING TO THE FEDERAL HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002 AND RELATED  
19 EXPENDITURES.

20 (3) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS  
21 NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

22 (4) THE TREASURER SHALL SEPARATELY HOLD AND THE COMPTROLLER  
23 SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

24 (5) THE FUND SHALL BE INVESTED AND REINVESTED IN THE SAME  
25 MANNER AS OTHER STATE FUNDS.

1 (6) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS SHALL BE RETAINED TO THE CREDIT  
2 OF THE FUND.

3 (B) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

4 (1) MONEYS APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;

5 (2) MONEYS OTHERWISE APPROPRIATED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE  
6 FUND, WHICH MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND BY AN APPROVED BUDGET  
7 AMENDMENT; AND

8 (3) MONEYS RECEIVED BY THE STATE FROM THE FEDERAL  
9 GOVERNMENT UNDER THE FEDERAL HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002 OR UNDER  
10 OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR SIMILAR PURPOSES.

11 (C) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE  
12 WITH AN APPROPRIATION FOR:

13 (1) COMPLYING WITH REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL HELP AMERICA  
14 VOTE ACT OF 2002;

15 (2) IMPROVING THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL  
16 OFFICE;

17 (3) EDUCATING VOTERS REGARDING VOTING PROCEDURES, VOTING  
18 RIGHTS, AND VOTING TECHNOLOGY;

19 (4) TRAINING ELECTION OFFICIALS, POLL WORKERS, AND ELECTION  
20 VOLUNTEERS;

21 (5) DEVELOPING THE STATE PLAN REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL HELP  
22 AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002;

23 (6) IMPROVING, ACQUIRING, LEASING, MODIFYING, OR REPLACING  
24 VOTING SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY AND METHODS FOR CASTING AND COUNTING  
25 VOTES;

26 (7) IMPROVING THE QUANTITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF POLLING  
27 PLACES, INCLUDING PROVIDING PHYSICAL ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH  
28 DISABILITIES, NONVISUAL ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS,  
29 AND ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED PROFICIENCY IN THE ENGLISH  
30 LANGUAGE;

31 (8) ESTABLISHING TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE HOTLINES THAT VOTERS  
32 MAY USE TO REPORT POSSIBLE VOTING FRAUD AND VOTING RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, TO  
33 OBTAIN GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION, AND TO ACCESS DETAILED AUTOMATED  
34 INFORMATION ON THEIR OWN VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS, SPECIFIC POLLING  
35 PLACE LOCATIONS, AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION; AND

1           (9)       ANY OTHER USES THAT MAY BE ALLOWED FOR FUNDS RECEIVED  
2 UNDER THE FEDERAL HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002.

3       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
4 effect June 1, 2003.