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

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Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Ways and Means, February 27, 2003

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 14, 2003

CHAPTER _____

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.

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

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

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

7 (6) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS SHALL BE RETAINED TO THE CREDIT
8 OF THE FUND.

9 (B) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

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

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

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

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

19 (1) COMPLYING WITH REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL HELP AMERICA
20 VOTE ACT OF 2002;

21 (2) IMPROVING THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL
22 OFFICE;

23 (3) EDUCATING VOTERS REGARDING VOTING PROCEDURES, VOTING
24 RIGHTS, AND VOTING TECHNOLOGY;

25 (4) TRAINING ELECTION OFFICIALS, POLL WORKERS, AND ELECTION
26 VOLUNTEERS;

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

29 (6) IMPROVING, ACQUIRING, LEASING, MODIFYING, OR REPLACING
30 VOTING SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY AND METHODS FOR CASTING AND COUNTING
31 VOTES;

32 (7) IMPROVING THE QUANTITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF POLLING
33 PLACES, INCLUDING PROVIDING PHYSICAL ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH
34 DISABILITIES, NONVISUAL ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS,
35 AND ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED PROFICIENCY IN THE ENGLISH
36 LANGUAGE;

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

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

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