

---

By: **Prince George's County Senators**  
Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2003  
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Election Law - Prince George's County Board of Elections - Selection of**  
3                                   **Members**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the manner for the selection of the members of the Prince  
5 George's County Board of Elections; and generally relating to the manner for  
6 selecting the members of the Prince George's County Board of Elections.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
8 Article - Election Law  
9 Section 2-201(a) and (h)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2003 Volume)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article - Election Law  
14 Section 2-201(b) and (j)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2003 Volume)

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

19                                   **Article - Election Law**

20 2-201.

21       (a)       (1)       There is a county board of elections in each county of the State.

22               (2)       Each local board and its staff is subject to the direction and authority  
23 of the State Board and is accountable to the State Board for its actions in all matters  
24 regarding the implementation of the requirements of this article and any applicable  
25 federal law.

26       (b)       (1)       [Except as provided in subsection (j) of this section, each] EACH local  
27 board consists of three regular members and two substitute members.

1           (2)     [Two] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (J) OF THIS SECTION,  
2 TWO regular members and one substitute member shall be of the majority party, and  
3 one regular member and one substitute member shall be of the principal minority  
4 party.

5           (3)     In the event of the absence of a regular member or a vacancy in the  
6 office of a regular member, the substitute member of the same political party shall  
7 exercise the powers and duties of a regular member until the regular member returns  
8 or the vacancy is filled as prescribed in subsection (h) of this section.

9       (h)     (1)     If a member of a local board dies, resigns, is removed, or becomes  
10 ineligible:

11           (i)     the substitute member belonging to the same political party  
12 shall become a regular member of the local board; and

13           (ii)    the Governor shall appoint an eligible person from the same  
14 political party to be the new substitute member.

15           (2)     If a substitute member of a local board becomes a regular member as  
16 provided in paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection, dies, resigns, is removed, or becomes  
17 ineligible when the confirming legislative body is not in session, the Governor shall  
18 appoint an eligible person from the same political party as the predecessor substitute  
19 member to fill the vacancy. That individual shall serve until the earlier of:

20           (i)     the adjournment of the next session of the General Assembly; or

21           (ii)    the appointment of another individual to fill the same vacancy.

22       (j)     [(1)]    In Prince George's County, [the local board consists of five regular  
23 members and three substitute members.

24           (2)     Four regular members and two substitute members] TWO REGULAR  
25 MEMBERS AND ONE SUBSTITUTE MEMBER shall be of the [majority party]  
26 POLITICAL PARTY OBTAINING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTES IN THE LAST  
27 PRECEDING GUBERNATORIAL GENERAL ELECTION IN THE COUNTY, and one regular  
28 member and one substitute member shall be of the [principal minority party]  
29 POLITICAL PARTY OBTAINING THE NEXT HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTES IN THE  
30 COUNTY IN THE LAST PRECEDING GUBERNATORIAL GENERAL ELECTION.

31           [(3)     If a vacancy occurs on the local board among the members from the  
32 majority party, the Governor shall designate one of the substitute members from that  
33 party to fill the vacancy.]

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