
By: **Delegates Griffith, Marriott, Patterson, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law - Task Force to Study Early Voting**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Early Voting; establishing the
4 membership of the Task Force; specifying certain duties for the Task Force;
5 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation;
6 authorizing a member of the Task Force to be reimbursed for certain expenses;
7 requiring the Task Force to issue a report of its findings and recommendations
8 on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and
9 generally relating to the Task Force to Study Early Voting.

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

12 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Early Voting.

13 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

14 (1) Three members of the Senate of Maryland, one of whom shall be a
15 member of the minority party, appointed by the President of the Senate;

16 (2) Three members of the House of Delegates, one of whom shall be a
17 member of the minority party, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

18 (3) The State Administrator of Elections, or the State Administrator of
19 Elections' designee;

20 (4) The Chairman of the State Board of Elections, or the Chairman's
21 designee;

22 (5) Seven individuals appointed by the Governor, including:

23 (i) Three representatives of the Maryland Association of Elections
24 Officials;

25 (ii) A representative of the League of Women Voters of Maryland;

1 (iii) An individual with experience in the information technology of
2 voter registration and voting systems;

3 (iv) Two other individuals, chosen from among individuals and
4 organizations who have demonstrated strong civic and community involvement and
5 participation in the electoral process; and

6 (6) Two members of the general public, appointed jointly by the
7 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

8 (c) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.

9 (d) The State Board of Elections shall provide staff for the Task Force.

10 (e) The Task Force shall:

11 (1) Collect information relating to the practice of early voting in other
12 jurisdictions in the United States, including the type, manner, and duration of the
13 early voting system that is utilized;

14 (2) Analyze current voting practices in Maryland and assess the
15 potential impacts of an early voting system;

16 (3) Assess any practical, logistical, or financial ramifications and
17 impediments to an early voting system in Maryland, including voting security;

18 (4) Make a determination on the feasibility of implementing, on or before
19 the 2006 primary and general elections, a pilot program for an early voting system in
20 Maryland; and

21 (5) Submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and,
22 subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on or
23 before December 31, 2005.

24 (f) A member may not receive compensation for serving on the Task Force, but
25 is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel
26 Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 July 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
29 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
30 abrogated and of no further force and effect.