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By: **Senators Exum, Britt, Conway, Gladden, Grosfeld, Hughes, and Jones**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2005

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Elections - Voter Registration Eligibility Requirements - Convicted**  
3                                   **Criminals**

4 FOR the purpose of altering certain qualifications for voter registration; providing  
5 that an individual is not qualified to register to vote if the individual has been  
6 convicted of a crime and is awaiting or actually serving a sentence of  
7 imprisonment; repealing certain conditions relating to the eligibility of certain  
8 felons convicted of certain crimes to register to vote; and generally relating to  
9 voter registration eligibility requirements for individuals convicted of crimes.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

11 Article - Election Law

12 Section 3-102

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2003 Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

17                                   **Article - Election Law**

18 3-102.

19 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, an individual may  
20 become registered to vote if the individual:

21 (1) is a citizen of the United States;

22 (2) is at least 18 years old or will be 18 years old on or before the day of  
23 the next succeeding general or special election;

24 (3) is a resident of the county as of the day the individual seeks to  
25 register; and

26 (4) registers pursuant to this title.

1 (b) An individual is not qualified to be a registered voter if the individual:

2 (1) has been convicted of [theft or other infamous crime, unless the  
3 individual:

4 (i) has been pardoned; or

5 (ii) 1. in connection with a first conviction, has completed the  
6 court-ordered sentence imposed for the conviction, including probation, parole,  
7 community service, restitutions, and fines; or

8 2. in connection with a subsequent conviction, has completed  
9 the court-ordered sentence imposed for the conviction, including probation, parole,  
10 community service, restitutions, and fines, and at least 3 years have elapsed since the  
11 completion of the court-ordered sentence imposed for the conviction, including  
12 probation, parole, community service, restitutions, and fines] A CRIME AND IS  
13 AWAITING OR ACTUALLY SERVING A COURT-ORDERED SENTENCE OF  
14 IMPRISONMENT IMPOSED FOR THE CONVICTION; OR

15 (2) is under guardianship for mental disability[; or

16 (3) has been convicted of buying or selling votes.

17 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, an individual is not  
18 qualified to be a registered voter if the individual has been convicted of a second or  
19 subsequent crime of violence, as defined in § 14-101 of the Criminal Law Article].

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 2005.