

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE BILL 124  
EMERGENCY BILL

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By: **Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By  
Request - Departmental - Elections, State Board of)**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2006

Rules suspended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 14, 2006

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Election Law - Protection of Voter's Confidential Information and Secrecy**  
3                                   **of Absentee Ballot Results**

4 FOR the purpose of creating an exception to the requirement to verify residence  
5     address of a voter whose personal information has been deemed confidential by  
6     a local board; requiring an election judge to conduct a certain alternative voter  
7     verification under certain circumstances; providing that certain absentee ballot  
8     election results may not be reported by precinct; making this Act an emergency  
9     measure; and generally relating to protecting confidential voter information and  
10    the secrecy of certain absentee ballot results.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12     Article - Election Law  
13     Section 10-310(a) and 11-402(b)  
14     Annotated Code of Maryland  
15     (2003 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

18                                   **Article - Election Law**

19 10-310.

20     (a)     For each individual who seeks to vote, an election judge, in accordance  
21     with instructions provided by the local board, shall:

1 (1) locate the individual's name in the precinct register and locate the  
2 preprinted voting authority card and then authorize the individual to vote a regular  
3 ballot;

4 (2) (i) if the individual's name is not found on the precinct register,  
5 search the inactive list and if the name is found, authorize the individual to vote a  
6 regular ballot; or

7 (ii) if the individual's name is not on the inactive list, refer the  
8 individual for provisional ballot voting under § 9-404 of this article;

9 (3) establish the identity of the voter by requesting the voter to state the  
10 month and day of the voter's birth and comparing the response to the information  
11 listed in the precinct register;

12 (4) (I) EXCEPT IF A VOTER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN  
13 DEEMED CONFIDENTIAL BY THE LOCAL BOARD, verify the address of the voter's  
14 residence; OR

15 (II) CONDUCT AN ALTERNATIVE VERIFICATION AS ESTABLISHED  
16 BY THE STATE BOARD, IF THE VOTER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN DEEMED  
17 CONFIDENTIAL BY THE LOCAL BOARD;

18 (5) if any changes to the voting authority card are indicated by a voter,  
19 make the appropriate changes in information on the card or other appropriate form;  
20 and

21 (6) have the voter sign the voting authority card and either issue the  
22 voter a ballot or send the voter to a machine to vote.

23 11-402.

24 (b) The statement prepared by the board of canvassers under [subsection (a)  
25 of] this section may not report the absentee vote separately by precinct.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an  
27 emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health  
28 or safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the  
29 members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take  
30 effect from the date it is enacted.

