
By: **Senator Gladden**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2006

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Voters' Rights Protection Act - Clarification**

3 FOR the purpose of clarifying the circumstances under which and locations in which
4 a person is prohibited from attiring or equipping an individual, or permitting an
5 individual to be attired or equipped, in a certain manner in connection with an
6 election; and generally relating to clarifying a certain provision of the Voters'
7 Rights Protection Act.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Election Law
10 Section 16-903
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2003 Volume and 2005 Supplement)
13 (As enacted by Chapter 4 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2006)

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

16 **Article - Election Law**

17 16-903.

18 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, ON ELECTION DAY AT
19 A POLLING SITE OR WITHIN AN AREA SURROUNDING THE POLLING SITE PRESCRIBED
20 BY THE STATE BOARD, a person may not attire or equip an individual, or permit an
21 individual to be attired or equipped, in a manner which creates the appearance that
22 the individual is performing an official or governmental function in connection with
23 an election, including:

24 (1) wearing a public or private law enforcement or security guard
25 uniform;

26 (2) using an armband; or

1 (3) except as required by law or by regulation adopted by the State Board
2 in connection with ballot security activities, carrying or displaying a gun or badge
3 within 100 feet of a polling site on election day.

4 (b) (1) A law enforcement officer or security guard who is on duty or
5 traveling to or from duty may vote while wearing a uniform.

6 (2) a law enforcement officer who is performing an official governmental
7 function may wear a uniform at a polling site.

8 (c) A person who violates this section is subject to the civil penalty specified
9 under § 16-1002 of this title.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 July 1, 2006.