

SENATE BILL 363

G1

7lr1435

By: **Senator Dyson**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2007

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Voter Registration – Change of Party Affiliation**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the period during which a registered voter may change
4 party affiliation; repealing the provision that prohibits a voter, subject to
5 certain exceptions, from changing party affiliation during certain periods;
6 requiring a local board to change, under certain circumstances, a voter's party
7 affiliation at any time that registration is open; repealing the provision that
8 permits a registered voter who has moved from one county to another to change
9 party affiliation during a certain period under certain circumstances; repealing
10 the provision that prohibits an individual whose registration has been canceled
11 from reregistering in the same county under certain circumstances with a
12 different party affiliation; and generally relating to a voter's change of party
13 affiliation.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Election Law
16 Section 3–302(a)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2003 Volume and 2006 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article – Election Law
21 Section 3–303
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2003 Volume and 2006 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Election Law**

4 3–302.

5 (a) Registration is closed beginning at 9 p.m. on the 21st day preceding an
6 election until the 11th day after that election.

7 3–303.

8 (a) [Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c)] **SUBJECT TO**
9 **SUBSECTION (B)** of this section, a local board, at the signed request of a registered
10 voter, shall change that voter's party affiliation, or change the voter to or from a
11 decline, at any time that registration is open.

12 (b) [(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, party
13 affiliation may not be changed:

14 (i) from 9 p.m. on the Monday, or the next regular business day
15 if the Monday is a legal holiday, that is 12 weeks before the day on which a primary
16 election is to be held under § 8–201 of this article, until and including the day on
17 which the registration reopens after the primary election is held; and

18 (ii) from and including the day of issuance of a gubernatorial
19 proclamation calling a special election, pursuant to § 8–710 of this article, or from 5
20 p.m. on the next regular business day if the day of issuance is a legal holiday, until
21 and including the day on which that special election is held.

22 (2)] If a voter requests a party affiliation change during a period
23 [specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection] **WHEN REGISTRATION IS CLOSED**, the
24 local board shall make the change if:

25 [(i)] (1) there is sufficient evidence, as determined by the local
26 boards pursuant to regulations adopted by the State Board, that the request was
27 mailed before the beginning of the period [specified in paragraph (1) of this
28 subsection] **WHEN REGISTRATION IS CLOSED**; or

29 [(ii)] (2) the request was submitted by the voter to the Motor
30 Vehicle Administration, a voter registration agency, another local board, or the State

1 Board before the beginning of the period [specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection]
2 **WHEN REGISTRATION IS CLOSED.**

3 [(c) If a registered voter has moved from one county to another within the
4 State since the last general election, the voter may change party affiliation or change
5 to or from a decline, one time only, during a period specified in subsection (b)(1) of this
6 section.

7 (d) An individual whose registration has been canceled at the individual's
8 request within a period specified in subsection (b) of this section may not reregister in
9 the same county during the same period with a party affiliation or nonaffiliation
10 different from the previous registration.]

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2007.