

HOUSE BILL 671

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9lr2297

By: **Delegates Hixson, Frick, Gilchrist, Gutierrez, Reznik, Rice, Simmons, and F. Turner**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2009

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Polling Places – Electioneering Boundary**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the location of the line beyond which electioneering is
4 prohibited outside a polling place; and generally relating to electioneering at a
5 polling place.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Election Law
8 Section 16–206
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2003 Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Election Law**

14 16–206.

15 (a) A person may not:

16 (1) place any distinguishing mark on the person's own or another
17 person's ballot for the purpose of identifying the ballot;

18 (2) misrepresent the person's ability to mark a ballot or operate voting
19 equipment;

20 (3) interfere or attempt to interfere with a voter while the voter is
21 inside the polling room, marking a ballot, or operating voting equipment;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) induce or attempt to induce a voter to mark the voter's ballot in a
2 certain way;

3 (5) except for servicing by an authorized person, unlock any locked
4 compartment of a voting device unless instructed to do so by the election director;

5 (6) destroy or deface a ballot;

6 (7) remove a ballot from a building in which voting occurs, except as
7 otherwise provided in this article;

8 (8) delay the delivery of a ballot;

9 (9) possess on or before the day of election an official ballot printed for
10 the election, unless the possession of the ballot is necessary and appropriate for
11 carrying out the election process; or

12 (10) canvass, electioneer, or post any campaign material in the polling
13 place or beyond a line established by signs posted in accordance with subsection (b) of
14 this section.

15 (b) (1) At each polling place, one election judge from each principal
16 political party shall be designated by the local board and, acting jointly, shall post
17 signs delineating a line around the entrance and exit of the building that are closest to
18 that part of the building in which voting occurs.

19 (2) The line shall be located as near as practicable to [100] **25** feet
20 from the entrance and exit and shall be established after consideration of the
21 configuration of the entrance and the effect of placement on public safety and the flow
22 of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

23 (3) The signs shall contain the words "No Electioneering Beyond this
24 Point".

25 (c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and is
26 subject to a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more
27 than 60 days or both.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2009.