

# HOUSE BILL 498

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2lr2475  
CF SB 420

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**By: Wicomico County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2012

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wicomico County – Election Law – Challengers and Watchers**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a candidate from being designated as a challenger or  
4 watcher at a polling place in Wicomico County for an election in which the  
5 candidate’s name appears on the ballot; providing for a delayed effective date;  
6 and generally relating to designating challengers and watchers in Wicomico  
7 County.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
9 Article – Election Law  
10 Section 1–101(l)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Election Law  
15 Section 10–311(a)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Election Law**

21 1–101.

22 (l) (1) “Candidate” means an individual who files a certificate of  
23 candidacy for a public or party office.

24 (2) “Candidate” includes:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) an incumbent judge of the Court of Appeals or Court of  
2 Special Appeals at an election for continuance in office; and

3 (ii) an individual, prior to that individual filing a certificate of  
4 candidacy, if a campaign finance entity has been established on behalf of that  
5 individual.

6 10-311.

7 (a) (1) **[The] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**  
8 following persons or entities have the right to designate a registered voter as a  
9 challenger or a watcher at each place of registration and election:

10 (i) the State Board for any polling place in the State;

11 (ii) a local board for any polling place located in the county of  
12 the local board;

13 (iii) a candidate;

14 (iv) a political party; and

15 (v) any other group of voters supporting or opposing a  
16 candidate, principle, or proposition on the ballot.

17 (2) A person who appoints a challenger or watcher may remove the  
18 challenger or watcher at any time.

19 **(3) A CANDIDATE MAY NOT BE DESIGNATED AS A CHALLENGER**  
20 **OR WATCHER AT A POLLING PLACE IN WICOMICO COUNTY FOR AN ELECTION IN**  
21 **WHICH THE CANDIDATE'S NAME APPEARS ON THE BALLOT.**

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 January 1, 2013.