

Chapter 651

(House Bill 138)

AN ACT concerning

Carroll County – Polling Places – Electioneering Boundaries

FOR the purpose of making Carroll County subject to the general rule for locating the line beyond which electioneering is prohibited outside a polling place; requiring that the line be as near as practicable to a certain distance from the entrance and exit of the polling place; repealing an exception, applicable to Carroll County, regarding the boundaries for electioneering outside a polling place; and generally relating to electioneering at a polling place in Carroll County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Election Law
Section 16–206
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

Article – Election Law

16–206.

- (a) A person may not:
- (1) place any distinguishing mark on the person's own or another person's ballot for the purpose of identifying the ballot;
 - (2) misrepresent the person's ability to mark a ballot or operate voting equipment;
 - (3) interfere or attempt to interfere with a voter while the voter is inside the polling room, marking a ballot, or operating voting equipment;
 - (4) induce or attempt to induce a voter to mark the voter's ballot in a certain way;
 - (5) except for servicing by an authorized person, unlock any locked compartment of a voting device unless instructed to do so by the election director;

- (6) destroy or deface a ballot;
- (7) remove a ballot from a building in which voting occurs, except as otherwise provided in this article;
- (8) delay the delivery of a ballot;
- (9) possess on or before the day of election an official ballot printed for the election, unless the possession of the ballot is necessary and appropriate for carrying out the election process; or
- (10) canvass, electioneer, or post any campaign material in the polling place or beyond a line established by signs posted in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

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

(2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the line shall be located as near as practicable to 100 feet from the entrance and exit and shall be established after consideration of the configuration of the entrance and the effect of placement on public safety and the flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

(ii) In [Carroll County and] Montgomery County, on approval of the local board, the line may be located at any point between 25 feet and 100 feet from the entrance and exit.

(3) The signs shall contain the words “No Electioneering Beyond this Point”.

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor, May 22, 2012.