

HOUSE BILL 1327

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CF SB 582

By: **Delegates George, Arora, Boteler, Frank, Kipke, McComas, McConkey, McDermott, McMillan, A. Miller, Myers, Norman, Parrott, Ready, B. Robinson, Schuh, Serafini, Stukes, Summers, Szeliga, and Vitale**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2014

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Redistricting Ballot Questions – Map of Proposed Districts**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a certain statement providing notice of a ballot
4 question relating to congressional redistricting include the address of a Web site
5 where a map of the boundaries of the proposed districts may be viewed;
6 requiring that a map of the proposed districts be posted in each polling place if
7 there is a question on the ballot relating to congressional redistricting; and
8 generally relating to providing voters with access to a map of the proposed
9 districts when there is a ballot question relating to congressional redistricting.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Election Law
12 Section 7–103(b) and 7–105(a)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Election Law
17 Section 7–105(b) and 10–306
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Election Law**

23 7–103.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) Each question shall appear on the ballot containing the following
2 information:

3 (1) a question number or letter as determined under subsection (d) of
4 this section;

5 (2) a brief designation of the type or source of the question;

6 (3) a brief descriptive title in boldface type;

7 (4) a condensed statement of the purpose of the question; and

8 (5) the voting choices that the voter has.

9 7–105.

10 (a) A local board shall provide notice of each question to be submitted
11 statewide and each question to be submitted to the voters of the county, by:

12 (1) specimen ballot mailed at least 1 week before any early voting
13 period before the general election; or

14 (2) publication or dissemination by mass communication during the 3
15 weeks immediately preceding the general election at which a question will appear on
16 the ballot.

17 (b) (1) For any question submitted under Article XIV or Article XVI of the
18 Maryland Constitution, the notice required by subsection (a) of this section shall
19 contain the information specified in § 7–103(b) of this title and a brief statement,
20 prepared in clear and concise language, devoid of technical and legal terms to the
21 extent practicable, summarizing the question.

22 (2) The statement required under paragraph (1) of this subsection
23 shall be:

24 (i) prepared by the Department of Legislative Services;

25 (ii) approved by the Attorney General; and

26 (iii) submitted to the State Board by the fourth Monday in
27 August.

28 (3) The statement required under paragraph (1) of this subsection is
29 sufficient if it is:

30 (i) contained in an enactment by the General Assembly, and
31 the enactment clearly specifies that the statement is to be used on the ballot; or

1 (ii) consistent with some other process mandated by the
2 Maryland Constitution.

3 (4) A STATEMENT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
4 SUBSECTION THAT RELATES TO CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING SHALL
5 INCLUDE THE ADDRESS OF A WEB SITE WHERE A VOTER MAY VIEW A MAP OF
6 THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED DISTRICTS.

7 10-306.

8 (a) (1) The State Board, in consultation with the election directors of the
9 local boards, shall specify and produce the following informational materials to be
10 posted in each polling place:

11 (i) a specimen ballot for that precinct;

12 (ii) instructions relating to the availability of assistance to
13 elderly and disabled voters;

14 (iii) information regarding the date of the election and the hours
15 during which the polling places will be open;

16 (iv) instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a vote;

17 (v) instructions for mail-in registrants and first-time voters;

18 (vi) general information on voting rights under applicable
19 federal and State laws and instructions on how to contact the appropriate local board
20 if these rights are alleged to have been violated;

21 (vii) information regarding provisional voting, including:

22 1. information on the right of an individual to cast a
23 provisional ballot;

24 2. how to fill out the provisional ballot application and
25 cast the provisional ballot; and

26 3. the standards that will be applied in determining
27 whether a provisional ballot will be counted; [and]

28 (VIII) IF THERE IS A QUESTION ON THE BALLOT THAT
29 RELATES TO CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING, A MAP OF THE BOUNDARIES OF
30 THE PROPOSED DISTRICTS; AND

1 [(viii)] **(IX)** general information on federal and State laws
2 regarding prohibitions on acts of fraud and misrepresentation.

3 (2) A local board may produce other materials appropriate for the
4 polling places in the county.

5 (b) Before the polls open, the election judges for each precinct shall post all
6 information specified under subsection (a) of this section.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 June 1, 2014.