

# SENATE BILL 15

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4lr0473

(PRE-FILED)

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By: ~~Senators Jacobs and Ferguson~~, Ferguson, and Reilly

Requested: September 5, 2013

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2014

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Statewide Voter Registration List – ~~Reports~~ Removal of**  
3 **Deceased Voters**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Administrator of Elections to ~~arrange to~~  
5 ~~receive reports of certain deceased individuals from the United States Social~~  
6 ~~Security Administration; authorizing the State Administrator to arrange to~~  
7 ~~receive reports of certain deceased individuals from any agency or entity if the~~  
8 ~~State Administrator determines the reports are reliable; and generally relating~~  
9 ~~to obtaining reports of deceased voters for purposes of maintaining the accuracy~~  
10 ~~of~~ make arrangements with the Social Security Administration or a certain  
11 entity to receive reports of certain individuals who are reported deceased;  
12 requiring an election director to mail a certain notice on receipt of a certain  
13 report that a registered voter is deceased; requiring an election director to take  
14 certain actions if the election director receives a certain response to the notice;  
15 requiring an election director to remove a registered voter who is reported  
16 deceased from the statewide voter registration list if the election director does  
17 not receive a certain response to the notice; and generally relating to the  
18 removal of deceased voters from the statewide voter registration list.

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
20 Article – Election Law  
21 Section 3–501  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
2 Article – Election Law  
3 Section 3–504  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

8 **Article – Election Law**

9 3–501.

10 An election director may remove a voter from the statewide voter registration  
11 list only:

12 (1) at the request of the voter, provided the request is:

13 (i) signed by the voter;

14 (ii) authenticated by the election director; and

15 (iii) in a format acceptable to the State Board or on a  
16 cancellation notice provided by the voter on a voter registration application;

17 (2) upon determining, based on information provided pursuant to §  
18 3–504 of this subtitle, that the voter is no longer eligible because:

19 (i) the voter is not qualified to be a registered voter as provided  
20 in § 3–102(b) of this title; or

21 (ii) the voter is deceased;

22 (3) if the voter has moved outside the State, as determined by  
23 conducting the procedures established in § 3–502 of this subtitle; or

24 (4) if, in accordance with the administrative complaint process under §  
25 3–602 of this title, the State Administrator or the State Administrator’s designee has  
26 determined that the voter is not qualified to be registered to vote.

27 3–504.

28 (a) (1) (i) Information from the agencies specified in this paragraph  
29 shall be reported to the State Administrator in a format and at times prescribed by the  
30 State Board.

1 (ii) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall report  
2 the names and residence addresses (if known) of all individuals at least 16 years of age  
3 reported deceased within the State since the date of the last report.

4 (iii) The clerk of the circuit court for each county and the  
5 administrative clerk for each District Court shall report the names and addresses of  
6 all individuals convicted, in the respective court, of a felony since the date of the last  
7 report.

8 (iv) The clerk of the circuit court for each county shall report the  
9 former and present names and residence addresses (if known) of all individuals whose  
10 names have been changed by decree or order of the court since the date of the last  
11 report.

12 (2) The State Administrator shall make arrangements with the clerk  
13 of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland to receive reports of  
14 names and addresses, if available, of individuals convicted of a felony in that court.

15 ~~(3) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS~~  
16 ~~WITH THE UNITED STATES SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TO RECEIVE~~  
17 ~~REPORTS OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES, IF AVAILABLE, OF ALL INDIVIDUALS AT~~  
18 ~~LEAST 16 YEARS OLD WHO ARE REPORTED DECEASED WITHIN THE STATE.~~

19 ~~(4) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR MAY MAKE ARRANGEMENTS~~  
20 ~~WITH ANY AGENCY OR ENTITY TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF INDIVIDUALS AT LEAST~~  
21 ~~16 YEARS OLD WHO ARE REPORTED DECEASED IF THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR~~  
22 ~~DETERMINES THE REPORTS ARE RELIABLE.~~

23 (3) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS  
24 WITH THE UNITED STATES SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OR AN ENTITY  
25 THAT RECEIVES INFORMATION FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION  
26 AND IS APPROVED BY THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF  
27 NAMES AND ADDRESSES, IF AVAILABLE, OF ALL MARYLAND RESIDENTS AT  
28 LEAST 16 YEARS OF AGE WHO ARE REPORTED DECEASED.

29 (b) (1) The State Administrator shall transmit to the appropriate local  
30 board information gathered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

31 (2) Every agency or instrumentality of any county which acquires or  
32 condemns or razes or causes to be condemned or razed any building used as a  
33 residence within the county shall promptly report this fact and the location of the  
34 building to the local board in the county or city.

35 (3) Registration cancellation information provided by an applicant on  
36 any voter registration application shall be provided to the appropriate local board by  
37 the State Administrator or another local board.

1 (4) A local board may:

2 (i) make arrangements to receive change of address  
3 information from an entity approved by the State Board; and

4 (ii) pay a reasonable fee to the entity for the information.

5 (c) (1) ~~(I) Whenever~~ **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF**  
6 **THIS SUBSECTION, WHENEVER** a local board becomes aware of an obituary or any  
7 other reliable report of the death of a registered voter, the election director shall mail  
8 a notice to the registered voter, as prescribed by the State Board, to verify whether the  
9 voter is in fact deceased.

10 ~~(2)~~ **(II)** On receipt of a verification of the death of a voter, provided  
11 in accordance with the notice mailed under ~~paragraph (1) of this subsection~~  
12 **SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH**, the election director may remove the  
13 voter from the statewide voter registration list under § 3-501 of this subtitle.

14 **(2) (I) WHENEVER A LOCAL BOARD RECEIVES A REPORT**  
15 **OBTAINED BY THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(3) OF THIS**  
16 **SECTION THAT INCLUDES A REGISTERED VOTER, THE ELECTION DIRECTOR**  
17 **SHALL MAIL TO THE ADDRESS SHOWN ON THE STATEWIDE VOTER**  
18 **REGISTRATION LIST, BY REGULAR U.S. MAIL, A NOTICE THAT:**

19 **1. STATES THAT THE REGISTERED VOTER HAS BEEN**  
20 **REPORTED BY THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TO HAVE DIED; AND**

21 **2. NOTIFIES THE REGISTERED VOTER OR A PERSON**  
22 **ATTENDING THE AFFAIRS OF A DECEASED VOTER THAT THE VOTER WILL BE**  
23 **REMOVED FROM THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST UNLESS, WITHIN 2**  
24 **WEEKS AFTER THE DATE OF THE LETTER, THE REGISTERED VOTER OR A**  
25 **REPRESENTATIVE:**

26 **A. OBJECTS TO THE REMOVAL; AND**

27 **B. SHOWS CAUSE WHY THE REMOVAL SHOULD NOT**  
28 **PROCEED.**

29 **(II) IF THE REGISTERED VOTER OR A REPRESENTATIVE**  
30 **TIMELY OBJECTS AND SHOWS CAUSE WHY THE REMOVAL SHOULD NOT**  
31 **PROCEED, THE ELECTION DIRECTOR MAY:**

32 **1. TERMINATE THE REMOVAL PROCESS AND RETAIN**  
33 **THE REGISTERED VOTER ON THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST; OR**

1                                   **2.     REFER THE MATTER TO THE LOCAL BOARD FOR A**  
2 **HEARING TO DETERMINE THE REGISTERED VOTER’S STATUS.**

3                                   **(III) IF THE REGISTERED VOTER OR A REPRESENTATIVE**  
4 **FAILS TO TIMELY OBJECT AND SHOW CAUSE WHY THE REMOVAL SHOULD NOT**  
5 **PROCEED, THE REGISTRATION SHALL BE CANCELED AND THE REGISTERED**  
6 **VOTER REMOVED FROM THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST.**

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.