

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1406  
Ways and Means

(Delegates Kipke and Afzali)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

**Election Law - Signed Voting Authority Cards - Maintenance**

---

This bill requires each local board of elections to maintain voting authority cards signed by voters when voting in person at a polling place or early voting center for three years. The voting authority cards must be maintained either by physically storing the voting authority cards or electronically scanning and storing the voting authority cards in the same manner that the local board stores other electronic materials.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2014.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local government finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** For each individual who seeks to vote in person at a polling place or early voting center, an election judge has to:

- locate the voter's name in the election register or inactive list;
- establish the voter's identity by requesting that the voter state their month and day of birth and comparing the response to the information in the election register;

- verify the address of the voter's residence, unless the voter's personal information has been deemed confidential by the local board, in which case an alternative verification method, established by the State Board of Elections (SBE), must be conducted; and
- have the voter sign a voting authority card.

Upon completion of those procedures, a voter is entitled to vote a regular ballot. If a voter's name is not found on the election register or the inactive voter list, the voter is referred to vote a provisional ballot.

SBE and each local board of elections must maintain and dispose of public records in accordance with a program for records management adopted by SBE. SBE advises that local boards of elections currently maintain voter authority cards for 22 months pursuant to federal law.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** State Board of Elections; Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Montgomery, and St. Mary's counties; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 2014  
mm/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 24, 2014  
Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 6, 2014

---

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510