

SENATE BILL 350

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By: **Senators Manno, Ramirez, Raskin, Benson, Conway, Currie, Feldman, Ferguson, Gladden, Guzzone, King, Lee, Madaleno, McFadden, Nathan-Pulliam, Peters, Pinsky, Pugh, Rosapepe, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Universal Voter Registration Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration and certain social service
4 agencies to provide electronic records of certain individuals to the State Board of
5 Elections; requiring the electronic records to include certain information relating to
6 each individual; requiring the State Board to determine whether each individual
7 whose electronic record it receives is eligible to be registered to vote; requiring the
8 State Board to provide the electronic record of each individual who is eligible to be
9 registered to vote to the local board of elections for the county where the individual
10 resides; requiring the local board to send a notice that contains certain information
11 to each individual who is eligible to be registered to vote; requiring a local board to
12 add to the statewide voter registration list the name of each individual who is eligible
13 to be registered to vote and who does not decline to register within a specified period
14 of time; requiring that an individual added to the statewide voter registration list be
15 listed as not affiliated with any political party if the individual has not selected a
16 political party affiliation; authorizing the State Board to adopt regulations to
17 implement this Act; repealing certain requirements that the Administration and
18 certain social service agencies conduct voter registration activities in a certain
19 manner; making conforming changes; defining certain terms; and generally relating
20 to universal voter registration.

21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
22 Article – Election Law
23 Section 3–102 and 3–301(c)(2)
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

26 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
27 Article – Election Law

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 3–201, 3–202(a)(4), 3–204(a), 3–302, and 3–303
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

4 BY repealing
5 Article – Election Law
6 Section 3–203
7 Annotated Code of Maryland
8 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

9 BY adding to
10 Article – Election Law
11 Section 3–203
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Election Law**

17 3–102.

18 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, an individual may
19 become registered to vote if the individual:

20 (i) is a citizen of the United States;

21 (ii) is at least 16 years old;

22 (iii) is a resident of the State as of the day the individual seeks to
23 register; and

24 (iv) registers pursuant to this title.

25 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection, an individual
26 under the age of 18 years:

27 (i) may vote in a primary election in which candidates are
28 nominated for a general or special election that will occur when the individual is at least
29 18 years old; and

30 (ii) may not vote in any other election.

31 (b) An individual is not qualified to be a registered voter if the individual:

1 (1) has been convicted of a felony and is actually serving a court-ordered
2 sentence of imprisonment, including any term of parole or probation, for the conviction;

3 (2) is under guardianship for mental disability and a court of competent
4 jurisdiction has specifically found by clear and convincing evidence that the individual
5 cannot communicate, with or without accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting
6 process; or

7 (3) has been convicted of buying or selling votes.

8 3-201.

9 (a) An individual may apply to become a registered voter:

10 (1) at a local board office or the State Board office;

11 (2) at a registration site administered by a local board;

12 (3) by mail;

13 (4) [when applying to the Motor Vehicle Administration for the issuance,
14 renewal, or modification of a driver's license or identification card;

15 (5)] when applying for services at a voter registration agency;

16 [(6)] (5) through the State Board's online voter registration system; or

17 [(7)] (6) with the assistance of a volunteer authorized by the State or local
18 board.

19 (b) An individual who is at least 18 years old or will be 18 years old on or before
20 the day of the next succeeding general or special election may be a volunteer under
21 subsection [(a)(7)] (A)(6) of this section.

22 3-202.

23 (a) (4) (i) A statewide voter registration application shall be produced
24 exclusively by the State Board.

25 (ii) No other registration form may be used for registration purposes
26 except:

27 1. a voter registration application produced by a local board
28 with the approval of the State Board;

29 2. as provided in subsection (b) of this section;

1 (4) Within 5 days of the receipt of an application under subsection (a) of
2 this section, the Motor Vehicle Administration shall forward to the State Board the voter
3 registration information in a manner and format specified jointly by the Motor Vehicle
4 Administration and the State Board.

5 (c) (1) (i) In consultation with the Motor Vehicle Administration, the State
6 Board shall prepare a voter registration application to be used for voter registration at the
7 Motor Vehicle Administration.

8 (ii) Except as provided in this section, the voter registration portion
9 of the application may not require information that duplicates information required in the
10 driver's license or identification card portion of the application.

11 (2) The voter registration portion of the application shall:

12 (i) contain the same information as the statewide voter registration
13 application prescribed in § 3-202(a) of this subtitle; and

14 (ii) require only the minimum amount of information necessary,
15 including the applicant's telephone number:

16 1. to prevent duplicate voter registration; and

17 2. to enable the appropriate election official to assess the
18 eligibility of an applicant and to administer voter registration and other aspects of the
19 election process.

20 (3) The application shall contain a box for the applicant to check, with the
21 statement, "I do not wish to register to vote at this time".

22 (d) The Motor Vehicle Administration shall follow the procedures established
23 jointly by the Motor Vehicle Administration and the State Board to process the voter
24 registration information received under this section.

25 (e) Information relating to the failure of an applicant for a driver's license or
26 identification card to register to vote may not be used for any purpose other than the
27 maintenance of registration statistics.]

28 **3-203.**

29 (A) (1) **IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
30 **INDICATED.**

31 (2) **"ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO SATISFIES**
32 **ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A REGISTERED VOTER UNDER § 3-102 OF THIS**
33 **TITLE.**

1 **(3) “LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES” INCLUDES THE:**

2 **(I) LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE**
3 **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES; AND**

4 **(II) MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND**
5 **HUMAN SERVICES.**

6 **(4) “SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY” MEANS THE:**

7 **(I) LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES;**

8 **(II) OFFICE OF MOBILITY CERTIFICATION IN THE MARYLAND**
9 **TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION; AND**

10 **(III) MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE.**

11 **(B) (1) THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE TO THE**
12 **STATE BOARD AN ELECTRONIC RECORD OF EACH INDIVIDUAL WHO:**

13 **(I) HOLDS A DRIVER’S LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD;**

14 **(II) IS AT LEAST 16 YEARS OF AGE; AND**

15 **(III) IS A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.**

16 **(2) A SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY SHALL PROVIDE TO THE STATE**
17 **BOARD AN ELECTRONIC RECORD OF EACH INDIVIDUAL WHO:**

18 **(I) RECEIVES SERVICE OR ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOCIAL**
19 **SERVICES AGENCY;**

20 **(II) IS AT LEAST 16 YEARS OF AGE; AND**

21 **(III) IS A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.**

22 **(C) THE ELECTRONIC RECORD OF AN INDIVIDUAL THAT IS PROVIDED TO**
23 **THE STATE BOARD UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE:**

24 **(1) THE LEGAL NAME AND RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF THE INDIVIDUAL;**

25 **(2) THE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE OF THE INDIVIDUAL; AND**

1 **(3) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE STATE BOARD.**

2 **(D) THE STATE BOARD, MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION, AND EACH**
3 **SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY SHALL JOINTLY ESTABLISH A SCHEDULE UNDER WHICH**
4 **THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION AND EACH SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY**
5 **SHALL PERIODICALLY TRANSFER TO THE STATE BOARD THE ELECTRONIC RECORDS**
6 **REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

7 **(E) THE STATE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER EACH INDIVIDUAL**
8 **WHOSE ELECTRONIC RECORD THE STATE BOARD RECEIVES UNDER SUBSECTION (B)**
9 **OF THIS SECTION IS AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.**

10 **(F) THE STATE BOARD SHALL PROVIDE THE ELECTRONIC RECORD OF EACH**
11 **ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL TO THE LOCAL BOARD FOR THE COUNTY WHERE THE**
12 **INDIVIDUAL RESIDES.**

13 **(G) THE LOCAL BOARD SHALL SEND A NOTICE, BY MAIL, TO EACH ELIGIBLE**
14 **INDIVIDUAL THAT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

15 **(1) THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WILL BE REGISTERED TO VOTE UNLESS**
16 **THE INDIVIDUAL DECLINES TO REGISTER TO VOTE WITHIN 21 DAYS AFTER THE**
17 **ISSUANCE OF THE NOTICE;**

18 **(2) THAT A DECLINATION TO REGISTER TO VOTE MUST BE IN WRITING**
19 **AND SENT TO THE LOCAL BOARD IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE**
20 **BOARD BY REGULATION;**

21 **(3) THAT THE INDIVIDUAL MAY SELECT A POLITICAL PARTY**
22 **AFFILIATION IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE BOARD BY REGULATION;**
23 **AND**

24 **(4) THAT THE INDIVIDUAL'S VOTER REGISTRATION RECORD WILL BE**
25 **SUBJECT TO PUBLIC DISCLOSURE FOR PURPOSES RELATED TO THE ELECTORAL**
26 **PROCESS UNLESS REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD AUTHORIZE THE**
27 **INDIVIDUAL TO APPLY TO KEEP THE INDIVIDUAL'S RESIDENCE ADDRESS,**
28 **TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS CONFIDENTIAL FOR SPECIFIED**
29 **SAFETY OR PRIVACY REASONS.**

30 **(H) THE LOCAL BOARD SHALL PROMPTLY ADD TO THE STATEWIDE VOTER**
31 **REGISTRATION LIST THE NAME OF EACH ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL WHO:**

1 **(1) DOES NOT DECLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE WITHIN 21 DAYS AFTER**
2 **ISSUANCE OF THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION;**
3 **AND**

4 **(2) IS NOT CURRENTLY REGISTERED TO VOTE.**

5 **(I) A LOCAL BOARD MAY NOT ADD AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL TO THE**
6 **STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST UNDER SUBSECTION (H) OF THIS SECTION:**

7 **(1) UNLESS AT LEAST 21 DAYS HAS ELAPSED AFTER ISSUANCE OF THE**
8 **NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION; OR**

9 **(2) DURING THE PERIOD THAT REGISTRATION IS CLOSED UNDER §**
10 **3-302 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

11 **(J) AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ADDED TO THE STATEWIDE VOTER**
12 **REGISTRATION LIST UNDER SUBSECTION (H) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE LISTED AS**
13 **NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY IF THE INDIVIDUAL HAS NOT**
14 **AFFIRMATIVELY SELECTED A POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION.**

15 **(K) AFTER ADDING AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL TO THE STATEWIDE VOTER**
16 **REGISTRATION LIST UNDER SUBSECTION (H) OF THIS SECTION, THE LOCAL BOARD**
17 **SHALL SEND TO THE INDIVIDUAL THE VOTER NOTIFICATION CARD SPECIFIED**
18 **UNDER § 3-301(C)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

19 **(L) THE STATE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS**
20 **SECTION.**

21 3-204.

22 (a) (1) The State Board shall designate public agencies and nongovernmental
23 agencies as voter registration agencies where qualified individuals may apply to register to
24 vote.

25 (2) [The] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS**
26 **SUBSECTION, THE** State Board shall designate the following offices as voter registration
27 agencies:

28 (i) all offices in the State that provide public assistance;

29 (ii) all offices in the State that provide State-funded programs
30 primarily engaged in providing services to individuals with disabilities; and

31 (iii) all public institutions of higher education in the State.

1 (3) **A SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY SUBJECT TO § 3-203 OF THIS**
2 **SUBTITLE:**

3 **(I) MAY NOT BE DESIGNATED A VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCY;**
4 **AND**

5 **(II) IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.**

6 **(4)** The State Board and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly develop and
7 implement procedures for persons to apply to register to vote at recruitment offices of the
8 armed forces of the United States, which shall be deemed voter registration agencies.

9 3-301.

10 (c) (2) (i) A voter notification card sent to a qualified applicant may serve
11 as a voter acknowledgment notice.

12 (ii) 1. The voter notification card shall contain the name and
13 address of the voter, the date of issue, and the district or ward and precinct of the voter.

14 2. The card is evidence that the individual to whom it is
15 issued is a registered voter on the date appearing on the card.

16 3. The election director shall issue a replacement card on
17 request of the voter and a new card when a relevant change is made in the voter's
18 registration record if the voter continues to reside in the county.

19 3-302.

20 (a) Except as provided under § 3-305 of this subtitle, registration is closed
21 beginning at 9 p.m. on the 21st day preceding an election until the 11th day after that
22 election.

23 (b) A voter registration application received when registration is closed shall be
24 accepted and retained by a local board, but the registration of the applicant does not become
25 effective until registration reopens.

26 (c) A voter registration application that is received by the local board after the
27 close of registration shall be considered timely received for the next election provided:

28 (1) there is sufficient evidence, as determined by the local board pursuant
29 to regulations adopted by the State Board, that the application was mailed on or before
30 registration was closed for that election; or

1 (2) the application was submitted by the voter to [the Motor Vehicle
2 Administration,] a voter registration agency, another local board, or the State Board prior
3 to the close of registration.

4 3-303.

5 (a) Notification of a change of party affiliation or a change to or from a decline
6 may be made:

7 (1) by information provided on a voter registration application by the same
8 methods provided for registration under Subtitle 2 of this title;

9 (2) by written notice, signed by the voter and sent by mail or otherwise
10 delivered to the local board in the county where the voter's current voter registration
11 address is located or to which the voter has moved;

12 (3) by making application in person at the office of the local board in the
13 county where the voter's current voter registration address is located or to which the voter
14 has moved; **OR**

15 (4) by information on a voter authority card or other appropriate form filled
16 out in a polling place[; or

17 (5) by changing a name or address with the Motor Vehicle Administration].

18 (b) Party affiliation changes or changes to or from a decline:

19 (1) shall be processed at any time that registration is open; and

20 (2) except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, may not be processed
21 when registration is closed.

22 (c) If a local board receives a request for a party affiliation change after the close
23 of registration, the local board shall make the change and it shall become effective for the
24 next election provided:

25 (1) there is sufficient evidence, as determined by the local boards pursuant
26 to regulations adopted by the State Board, that the request was mailed on or before the
27 close of registration for that election; or

28 (2) the request was submitted by the voter to [the Motor Vehicle
29 Administration,] a voter registration agency, another local board, or the State Board on or
30 before the close of registration for that election.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 October 1, 2016.

