HOUSE BILL 63

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8lr0896

(PRE–FILED)

By: **Delegate Carr**
Requested: October 20, 2017
Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2018
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1   AN ACT concerning

2   **Elections – Ballots – Random Ordering of Names**

3   FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that the names of certain candidates for
4   election be listed in a certain alphabetical order; requiring a local board of elections
5   to conduct a random drawing of the names of the candidates for election to determine
6   the order of the names on the ballot; requiring the drawing to be conducted in the
7   manner required by the State Board of Elections; defining a certain term; providing
8   for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to the placement of names on the
9   ballot of candidates for election.

10   BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11   Article – Election Law
12   Section 9–210(j)
13   Annotated Code of Maryland
14   (2017 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

17   **Article – Election Law**

18   9–210.

19   (j)   (1)   In a primary election:

20   (i)   on a voting machine ballot, the names of the candidates for party
21   nomination shall be grouped together by party; and

22   (ii)   on a document ballot, the ballot shall include only the names of
23   candidates for which the voter is entitled to vote.

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
         [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

1   (2)   In a general election:

2   (i)   on a voting machine ballot, the names of the candidates of a
3   political party shall be grouped together in adjacent rows or columns, and the majority
4   party candidates shall be placed in the first row or column, followed by the candidates of
5   the principal minority party, followed by other political parties in descending order based
6   on the number of voters registered with the party, and finally by candidates not nominees
7   of a political party; and

8   (ii)   on a document ballot, for each office the names of candidates
9   shall be grouped together by party, with the majority party candidate or candidates listed
10   first, followed by the candidate or candidates of the principal minority party, followed by
11   the candidate or candidates of other political parties in descending order based on the
12   statewide registration of the party, and finally by candidates who are not nominees of a
13   political party.

14   (3)   **(I)   IN   THIS   PARAGRAPH,   "CANDIDATE"   INCLUDES   A**
15   **GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR UNIT.**

16   **(II)** In both primary elections and general elections, when there is
17   more than one candidate of the same political party for nomination or election to an office,
18   [the names of the candidates in the group shall be listed in alphabetical order by surname.
19   In the primary election, candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall be
20   arranged in the order of surnames of the gubernatorial candidates] **A LOCAL BOARD**
21   **SHALL CONDUCT A RANDOM DRAWING TO DETERMINE THE ORDER OF THE NAMES**
22   **OF THE CANDIDATES FOR AN OFFICE ON THE BALLOT.**

23   **(III)   THE DRAWING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN A MANNER**
24   **REQUIRED BY THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS.**

25   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26   January 1, 2019.