

Chapter 552

(House Bill 1717)

AN ACT concerning

~~Election Law State Government – Protection of Information – Voter
Registration Lists and Voter Registration Numbers
(Voter Registration List Protection Act)~~

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring that a copy of a list of registered voters be provided to a political party established under certain provisions of law; altering the contents of a certain statement; prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully, rather than only knowingly, allowing a list of registered voters under the person’s control to be used for any purpose not related to the electoral process; specifying that a certain prohibition relates to allowing a list of registered voters to be used for any purpose not related to the electoral process in the State; prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully allowing a list of registered voters to be made available or distributed, used for commercial solicitation, or published or republished in a certain manner; establishing a certain penalty; altering the penalty for a certain violation; requiring the State Board of Elections to adopt certain regulations; altering the definition of “personal information” for purposes of certain provisions of law governing the protection of information by government agencies to exclude voter registration numbers; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to voter registration lists and voter registration numbers.~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Election Law
Section 3–506
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 10–1301(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 10–1301(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

~~Article — Election Law~~~~§ 506.~~

~~(a) (1) A copy of a list of registered voters shall be provided to a Maryland registered voter OR A POLITICAL PARTY ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 4 OF THIS ARTICLE on receipt of:~~

~~(i) a written application; and~~

~~(ii) a statement, signed under oath, that the list is not intended to be used for:~~

~~1. commercial solicitation; or~~

~~2. any other purpose not related to the electoral process IN THE STATE.~~

~~(2) In consultation with the local boards, the State Board shall adopt regulations that specify:~~

~~(i) the time for a list to be provided under this subsection;~~

~~(ii) the authorization to be required for providing a list;~~

~~(iii) the fee to be paid for providing a list;~~

~~(iv) the information to be included on a list;~~

~~(v) that the residence address of an individual who is a participant in an address confidentiality program may not be disclosed;~~

~~(vi) that a participant in an address confidentiality program is not required to apply to the State Board to keep the individual's residence address confidential;~~

~~(vii) the format of the information; and~~

~~(viii) the medium or media on which the information is to be provided.~~

~~(b) (1) The State Administrator or a designee shall provide a copy of the statewide voter registration list and voter registration records to a jury commissioner on request and without charge by means agreed to with the Administrative Office of the Courts.~~

~~(2) On application of the Attorney General, a circuit court may compel compliance with paragraph (1) of this subsection.~~

~~(e) A person [who] MAY NOT knowingly [allows] AND WILLFULLY ALLOW a list of registered voters, under the person’s control, to be:~~

~~(1) used for any purpose not related to the electoral process [is guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction, is subject to the penalties under Title 16 of this article] IN THE STATE;~~

~~(2) MADE AVAILABLE OR DISTRIBUTED TO A THIRD PARTY OTHER THAN A CANDIDATE OR BALLOT ISSUE COMMITTEE OR TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC;~~

~~(3) USED FOR COMMERCIAL SOLICITATION; OR~~

~~(4) PUBLISHED OR REPUBLISHED IN A MANNER NOT AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

~~(D) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND, ON CONVICTION, IS SUBJECT TO THE PENALTIES UNDER § 16-101 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

~~(E) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.~~

Article – State Government

10–1301.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(c) (1) “Personal information” means an individual’s first name or first initial and last name, personal mark, or unique biometric or genetic print or image, in combination with one or more of the following data elements:

[(1)] (I) a Social Security number;

[(2)] (II) a driver’s license number, state identification card number, or other individual identification number issued by a unit;

[(3)] (III) a passport number or other identification number issued by the United States government;

[(4)] (IV) an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number; or

[(5)] (v) a financial or other account number, a credit card number, or a debit card number that, in combination with any required security code, access code, or password, would permit access to an individual's account.

(2) "PERSONAL INFORMATION" DOES NOT INCLUDE A VOTER REGISTRATION NUMBER.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2018.