

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 5 (Delegate J. Lewis)
Environment and Transportation

Real Property - Residential Leases - Voter Registration

This bill requires a landlord to provide a tenant of a residential property with a voter registration application and information about voter registration in the local jurisdiction when the tenant takes possession of a residential property.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to impact local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: A landlord is not required by law to provide voter registration information or applications to tenants.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2015, the most recent year for which data is available, approximately 719,000 of 2.17 million occupied housing units in the State are “renter-occupied,” representing approximately 33% of occupied housing units. The number of new leases for residential property signed each year is unknown.

The State Board of Elections advises that, as of December 2017, a total of 3,903,599 individuals were registered to vote in the State. More than half of registered voters (approximately 2.1 million) were registered in the counties of Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George’s and in Baltimore City. The [Maryland Voter](#)

[Registration Application](#) is available online from the State Board of Elections. Additionally, individuals can register to vote online through Maryland's [Online Voter Registration System](#).

According to the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), federal and State laws require MVA to assist customers in applying to register to vote and/or updating their voting information. While MVA does not actually register voters, eligible individuals may update voter registration information in several situations, including when renewing a driver's license or changing a name or address. Additionally, voters are able to change their voter registration record when submitting a standard change of address to the U.S. Postal Service.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland State Board of Elections; Office of the Attorney General (Consumer Protection Division); Maryland Department of Transportation; U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Postal Service; Department of Legislative Services

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mm/kdm

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