

Chapter 609

(House Bill 286)

AN ACT concerning

Election Law – Registration and Voting at Precinct Polling Places

FOR the purpose of providing an exception to the voter registration deadline to allow an individual to appear at a precinct polling place in the individual's county of residence and apply to register to vote ~~or change the voter's address on an existing voter registration~~; requiring an applicant for voter registration on election day to provide proof of residency; specifying the acceptable forms of proof of residency; requiring an election judge to determine whether an applicant for voter registration resides in the precinct and is qualified to become a registered voter; requiring an election judge to process certain applicants for voter registration in a certain manner; requiring ~~local boards of elections~~ *the State Board of Elections* to take appropriate measures to notify potential registrants of the correct precinct polling place for the potential registrants' residence addresses *except under certain circumstances*; requiring an election judge to notify certain individuals of the correct precinct for the voter's residence address; ~~requiring an election judge to determine whether a voter who applies to change the voter's address resides in the precinct where the voter seeks to vote; requiring an election judge to process certain voters who apply to change their address in a certain manner~~; requiring the State Board of Elections to adopt regulations and procedures in accordance with the requirements of certain provisions of this Act for the administration of voter registration on election day; and generally relating to registration and voting at precinct polling places.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Election Law
 Section 3–302
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

BY adding to
 Article – Election Law
 Section 3–306
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

Article – Election Law

3–302.

(a) Except as provided under [§ 3-305] §§ 3-305 AND 3-306 of this subtitle, registration is closed beginning at 9 p.m. on the 21st day preceding an election until the 11th day after that election.

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

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

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

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

3-306.

(A) ON ELECTION DAY, AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPEAR AT A PRECINCT POLLING PLACE IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S COUNTY OF RESIDENCE AND APPLY TO REGISTER TO VOTE ~~OR CHANGE THE VOTER'S ADDRESS ON AN EXISTING VOTER REGISTRATION.~~

(B) (1) WHEN APPLYING TO REGISTER TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY, THE APPLICANT SHALL PROVIDE PROOF OF RESIDENCY.

(2) THE APPLICANT SHALL PROVE RESIDENCY BY SHOWING THE ELECTION JUDGE:

(I) A MARYLAND DRIVER'S LICENSE OR MARYLAND IDENTIFICATION CARD THAT CONTAINS THE APPLICANT'S CURRENT ADDRESS; OR

(II) IF THE APPLICANT DOES NOT HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD THAT CONTAINS THE APPLICANT'S CURRENT ADDRESS, A COPY OF AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT THAT:

1. MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD; AND

2. CONTAINS THE APPLICANT'S NAME AND CURRENT ADDRESS.

(C) (1) WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL APPLIES TO REGISTER TO VOTE AT A PRECINCT POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY, THE ELECTION JUDGE SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THE APPLICANT RESIDES IN THE PRECINCT IN WHICH THE APPLICANT APPLIED AND IS QUALIFIED TO BECOME A REGISTERED VOTER.

(2) IF THE VOTER IS A RESIDENT OF THE PRECINCT AND IS QUALIFIED TO REGISTER TO VOTE, THE ELECTION JUDGE SHALL:

- (I) ISSUE THE VOTER A VOTER AUTHORITY CARD;
- (II) HAVE THE VOTER SIGN THE VOTER AUTHORITY CARD; AND
- (III) ISSUE THE VOTER A REGULAR BALLOT.

(3) IF THE VOTER IS A RESIDENT OF THE COUNTY BUT NOT THE PRECINCT, IS QUALIFIED TO REGISTER TO VOTE, AND CHOOSES TO VOTE IN THE PRECINCT, THE ELECTION JUDGE SHALL:

- (I) ISSUE THE VOTER A VOTER AUTHORITY CARD;
- (II) HAVE THE VOTER SIGN THE VOTER AUTHORITY CARD; AND
- (III) ISSUE THE VOTER A PROVISIONAL BALLOT.

(D) (1) ~~THE LOCAL BOARDS~~ UNLESS A LOCAL BOARD ELECTS TO MAKE THE NOTIFICATION, THE STATE BOARD SHALL TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO NOTIFY POTENTIAL REGISTRANTS OF THE CORRECT PRECINCT POLLING PLACE FOR THE POTENTIAL REGISTRANTS' RESIDENCE ADDRESSES BEFORE EACH ELECTION.

(2) THE ELECTION JUDGE SHALL NOTIFY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO APPLIES TO REGISTER TO VOTE AT THE INCORRECT PRECINCT FOR THE VOTER'S RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF THE CORRECT PRECINCT FOR THE VOTER'S RESIDENCE ADDRESS.

~~(E) (1) WHEN A VOTER APPLIES TO CHANGE THE VOTER'S ADDRESS AT A PRECINCT POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY, THE ELECTION JUDGE SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THE VOTER RESIDES IN THE PRECINCT IN WHICH THE VOTER SEEKS TO VOTE.~~

~~(2) IF THE VOTER IS A RESIDENT OF THE PRECINCT, THE ELECTION JUDGE SHALL:~~

- ~~(I) ISSUE THE VOTER A VOTER AUTHORITY CARD;~~

~~(H) HAVE THE VOTER SIGN THE VOTER AUTHORITY CARD; AND~~

~~(HH) ISSUE THE VOTER A REGULAR BALLOT.~~

~~(3) IF THE VOTER IS A RESIDENT OF THE COUNTY BUT NOT THE PRECINCT, THE ELECTION JUDGE SHALL:~~

~~(I) ISSUE THE VOTER A VOTER AUTHORITY CARD;~~

~~(II) HAVE THE VOTER SIGN THE VOTER AUTHORITY CARD; AND~~

~~(III) ISSUE THE VOTER A PROVISIONAL BALLOT.~~

~~(F)~~ (E) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION ON ELECTION DAY.

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

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 25, 2019.