

SB0056/404836/1

BY: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 56
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 3, after the first “of” insert “requiring the State Board of Elections to consider certain guidelines regarding the use of plain language in government communications when preparing certain guidelines and instructions;”; in line 9, after “comprehension;” insert “authorizing certain entities required to prepare and certify a question on a ballot to use certain guidelines regarding the use of plain language in government communications in making a certain determination;”; after line 10, insert:

“BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Election Law

Section 6-103(b), 6-201(c), and 7-103(b) and (c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)”;

and strike in their entirety lines 16 through 20, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 23, insert:

“6-103.

(b) (1) The State Board shall:

(i) prepare guidelines and instructions relating to the petition process; and

(Over)

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(ii) design and arrange to have sample forms available to the public conforming to this title for each purpose for which a petition is authorized by law.

(2) WHEN PREPARING GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE PLAIN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT OF § 6-201(C)(2)(I) OF THIS TITLE, THE STATE BOARD SHALL CONSIDER ANY GENERALLY ACCEPTED GUIDELINES REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL PLAIN WRITING ACT OF 2010.

(3) The guidelines, instructions, and forms shall be provided to the public, on request, without charge.”.

On page 3, after line 13, insert:

“(c) (1) The Secretary of State shall prepare and certify to the State Board, not later than the 95th day before the general election, the information required under subsection (b) of this section, for all statewide ballot questions and all questions relating to an enactment of the General Assembly which is petitioned to referendum.

(2) The State Board shall prepare and certify to the appropriate local board, not later than the 105th day before the general election, the information required under subsection (b) of this section for all questions that have been referred to the voters of one county or part of one county pursuant to an enactment of the General Assembly.

(3) (i) The county attorney of the appropriate county shall prepare and certify to the State Board, not later than the 95th day before the general election, the information required under subsection (b) of this section for each question to be voted on in a single county or part of a county, except a question covered by paragraph (1) or paragraph (2) of this subsection.

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(ii) If the information required under subsection (b) of this section has not been timely certified under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the clerk of the circuit court for the jurisdiction shall prepare and certify that information to the State Board not later than the first Friday in August.

(4) (i) The municipal attorney of the appropriate municipal corporation shall prepare and certify to the State Board, not later than the 95th day before the general election, the information required under subsection (b) of this section for each question to be voted on in the municipal corporation, except a question covered by paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection.

(ii) If the information required under subsection (b) of this section has not been timely certified under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the clerk of the circuit court for the county in which the municipal corporation is located shall prepare and certify that information to the State Board not later than the first Friday in August.

(5) AN ENTITY THAT IS REQUIRED TO PREPARE AND CERTIFY A QUESTION MAY USE ANY GENERALLY ACCEPTED GUIDELINES REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL PLAIN WRITING ACT OF 2010 IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE QUESTION IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PLAIN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B)(4) OF THIS SECTION.

(6) The information required under subsection (b) of this section for a question that is being placed on the ballot by petition may be prepared before the petition is certified under § 6–208 of this article.”.