

SENATE BILL 648

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By: **Senator Lam**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – County Central Committees – Democratic Party Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing certain provisions of law concerning the composition of
4 Democratic Party Central Committees in certain counties; requiring the members of
5 each county Democratic Party Central Committee to be elected in accordance with
6 certain rules and bylaws; requiring that the method of election of members of each
7 county Democratic Party Central Committee promote geographic balance to the
8 extent practicable; requiring the Democratic State Central Committee to notify the
9 State Board of Elections of the number of elected members for each county
10 Democratic Party Central Committee and the composition of the districts of the
11 elected members of each county Democratic Party Central Committee not later than
12 a certain amount of time before a certain deadline; authorizing a change affecting
13 the method of election of county Democratic Party Central Committee members to
14 take effect only after certain actions have been taken; prohibiting a change to the
15 method of election of county Democratic Party Central Committee members from
16 occurring during an election cycle if the Democratic State Central Committee has
17 made a certain notification; and generally relating to Democratic Party Central
18 Committees.

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article – Election Law
21 Section 4–203
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Election Law**

27 4–203.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) In Anne Arundel County, the members of the [Democratic and] Republican
2 Party Central [Committees] **COMMITTEE** for the county shall be elected as follows:

3 (1) three members shall be elected from each legislative district wholly
4 contained within Anne Arundel County; and

5 (2) one member shall be elected from that portion within Anne Arundel
6 County of any legislative district that is partially contained within Anne Arundel County.

7 (b) (1) [(i) In Baltimore City, the Democratic Party Central Committee
8 consists of seven members elected from each of the six legislative districts of Baltimore
9 City.

10 (ii) Each member shall reside in, and be elected by the voters of, the
11 legislative district that the member represents.

12 (2) (i) [The] **IN BALTIMORE CITY, THE** members of the Republican
13 Party Central Committee shall be elected from each councilmanic district of Baltimore City.

14 [(ii) (2) Two members shall be elected from each councilmanic
15 district.

16 [(iii) (3) An individual appointed to fill a vacancy of a member of
17 the Republican Party Central Committee may reside anywhere in Baltimore City.

18 (c) [(1) In Baltimore County, the Republican Party Central Committee shall
19 consist of four members elected from each councilmanic district in the county.

20 [(2) For the Baltimore County Democratic Party Central Committee:

21 (i) 20 members, five from each district, shall be elected from
22 legislative districts 6, 8, 10, and 11, each district being located wholly within Baltimore
23 County;

24 (ii) four members shall be elected from legislative district 44B that
25 is located wholly in Baltimore County;

26 (iii) four members shall be elected from that part of legislative
27 district 7 that is located in Baltimore County;

28 (iv) four members shall be elected from that part of legislative
29 district 12 that is located in Baltimore County; and

30 (v) five members, of which two members shall be from delegate
31 district 42A and three members shall be from delegate district 42B, shall be elected from

1 legislative district 42 that is located wholly in Baltimore County.

2 (3) Only individuals affiliated with the Democratic Party and who are
3 registered to vote in Baltimore County may vote for the election of members to the
4 Baltimore County Democratic Party Central Committee under this section.

5 (4) The number of Democratic Party Central Committee members to be
6 elected from each legislative district, or portion of legislative district, in Baltimore County
7 shall be determined upon completion of each legislative districting.

8 (d) In Calvert County, the Democratic Party Central Committee consists of nine
9 members elected by the voters of the county at large as follows:

10 (1) two members who reside in the first election district and receive the
11 largest number of votes cast for candidates from that district;

12 (2) two members who reside in the second election district and receive the
13 largest number of votes cast for candidates from that district;

14 (3) two members who reside in the third election district and receive the
15 largest number of votes cast for candidates from that district; and

16 (4) three members who reside in Calvert County and who receive the
17 highest number of votes cast in Calvert County for the remaining candidates.

18 (e) **(D)** In Carroll County, the Republican Party Central Committee shall
19 consist of nine members elected at large.

20 **[(f)** (1) In Montgomery County, for the Democratic Party Central Committee:

21 (i) two members are elected from each of the legislative districts
22 that lie wholly within Montgomery County;

23 (ii) one member is elected from the Montgomery County part of each
24 legislative district that is partially within Montgomery County; and

25 (iii) members shall be elected at large equal to the number of
26 legislative districts that lie wholly within Montgomery County, except that not more than
27 two members at large may reside in the same legislative district.

28 (2) Any vacancy in a seat on the Democratic Party Central Committee held
29 initially by a member elected from a legislative district shall be filled by a person residing
30 in that district.

31 (3) Any reference to the Democratic Party Central Committee for
32 Montgomery County or any portion of it means the entire membership of the Montgomery
33 County Democratic Party Central Committee, and in no event do the members of the

1 Central Committee elected from a district comprise a separate central committee.

2 (g) (E) (1) [(i)] In Prince George's County, members of the Republican
3 Party Central Committee:

4 [1.] (I) may run at large to fill historically vacant seats; and

5 [2.] (II) unless a member runs at large under item 1 of this
6 subparagraph, shall be elected from within legislative districts of Prince George's County
7 or within that portion of any legislative district lying within Prince George's County.

8 [(ii)] (2) The number of members of the Republican Party Central
9 Committee shall, to the extent practicable, consist of two members from each of the eight
10 legislative districts lying within Prince George's County.

11 [(2) (i)] In Prince George's County, the Democratic Party Central
12 Committee consists of 24 members.

13 (ii) 1. Two members shall reside in and be elected by the eligible
14 voters of each of the eight legislative districts lying within Prince George's County.

15 2. At least one member shall reside in each single-member
16 or two-member delegate district of any district in which there are such districts.

17 (iii) In addition to the members of the committee elected from
18 legislative districts, eight members of the committee shall be elected by all the eligible
19 voters in the county, and at the time of election, each member shall reside in a different one
20 of the eight legislative districts within Prince George's County.

21 (iv) A candidate for election to the Democratic Party Central
22 Committee shall declare at the time of filing for candidacy which seat on the Central
23 Committee the candidate is seeking.

24 (v) If a member who was elected from a specific legislative district
25 ceases to reside in that district, the member may not continue to serve on the Central
26 Committee.

27 (h) (1) In Worcester County, the Democratic Party Central Committee consists
28 of 11 members as follows:

29 (i) seven members who shall reside in and be elected, respectively,
30 by the eligible voters of each of the seven county commissioner districts; and

31 (ii) four members who shall reside in Worcester County, be elected
32 at large by the eligible voters of the entire county, and receive the highest number of votes
33 cast for candidates in the at large election.

1 (2) (i) A candidate for election to the Democratic Party Central
2 Committee shall declare at the time of filing a certificate of candidacy which seat the
3 candidate is seeking.

4 (ii) A member elected to represent a specific county commissioner
5 district who ceases to reside in that district may not continue to serve on the Central
6 Committee.

7 (3) Any vacancy in a seat on the Central Committee held by an individual
8 elected from a county commissioner district shall be filled by an individual who resides in
9 that district.]

10 **(F) (1) IN EACH COUNTY, THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC**
11 **PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE SHALL BE ELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH:**

12 **(I) THE PARTY RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY;**

13 **(II) THE BYLAWS OF THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL**
14 **COMMITTEE; AND**

15 **(III) THE BYLAWS OF EACH COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE.**

16 **(2) THE METHOD OF ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF EACH COUNTY**
17 **DEMOCRATIC PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE SHALL PROMOTE GEOGRAPHIC**
18 **BALANCE TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE.**

19 **(3) NOT LATER THAN 1 YEAR BEFORE THE DEADLINE FOR FILING A**
20 **CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY UNDER § 5-303(A) OF THIS ARTICLE, THE**
21 **DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SHALL NOTIFY THE STATE BOARD OF:**

22 **(I) THE NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS FOR EACH COUNTY**
23 **DEMOCRATIC PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE; AND**

24 **(II) THE COMPOSITION OF THE DISTRICTS OF THE ELECTED**
25 **MEMBERS OF EACH COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE.**

26 **(4) A CHANGE AFFECTING THE METHOD OF ELECTION OF COUNTY**
27 **DEMOCRATIC PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAY TAKE EFFECT ONLY**
28 **AFTER:**

29 **(I) AMPLE ADVANCE WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE CHANGE IS**
30 **PROVIDED TO THE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS;**

31 **(II) A CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE IN THE BYLAWS OF THE COUNTY**

1 **DEMOCRATIC PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE; AND**

2 **(III) THE CHANGE IS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR OF THE**
3 **DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.**

4 **(5) A CHANGE TO THE METHOD OF ELECTION OF COUNTY**
5 **DEMOCRATIC PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAY NOT OCCUR DURING AN**
6 **ELECTION CYCLE IF THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS MADE**
7 **THE NOTIFICATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

8 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
9 **October 1, 2020.**