

SENATE BILL 683

G1

(11r2201)

ENROLLED BILL

— Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/Ways and Means —

Introduced by **Senator Kramer**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Voting – Permanent Absentee Ballot List, Ballot Drop Boxes, and**
3 **Report Reports**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a local board of elections to designate the locations of ballot
5 drop boxes in accordance with certain ~~criteria established by the State Board of~~
6 ~~Elections~~ factors; requiring each local board to submit certain proposed locations to
7 the State Administrator of Elections for approval; requiring the State Administrator
8 to approve certain proposed ballot drop box locations ~~under certain circumstances;~~
9 requiring the State Administrator to require a local board to reconsider a certain
10 proposed location and to provide to the local board a certain explanation under
11 certain circumstances; authorizing the State Administrator to add ballot drop box
12 locations in a county under certain circumstances; ~~requiring the outgoing envelope~~
13 ~~of an absentee ballot to include a certain statement;~~ *requiring a local board to ensure*
14 *the security of ballot drop boxes; requiring that a local board have certain access to*
15 *certain security cameras; requiring a local board to remove the ballots from each*

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 ballot drop box at least once each day that the ballot drop box is open in accordance
2 with certain procedures, except as otherwise provided by law; requiring the State
3 Board to establish chain of custody procedures governing removal of election-related
4 materials from ballot drop boxes and the return of the materials to the local board;
5 requiring that a certain absentee ballot application include a certain statement;
6 requiring that certain envelopes include a certain statement in a certain manner;
7 requiring that certain guidelines for absentee voting established by the State Board
8 of Elections to provide for a permanent absentee ballot list; providing that all voters
9 are eligible for permanent absentee ballot status; ~~authorizing~~ requiring a voter to
10 complete and submit certain information to apply for request permanent absentee
11 ballot status in a certain manner; ~~requiring a local board to send a certain absentee~~
12 ~~ballot application to each eligible voter within a certain period of time; authorizing a~~
13 ~~voter to apply for permanent absentee ballot status at any time; prohibiting a voter~~
14 who ~~has applied for~~ requests permanent absentee ballot status from receiving an
15 absentee ballot for the next election if the ~~application request~~ is made after a certain
16 deadline; requiring a voter to specify in ~~the permanent~~ a certain absentee ballot
17 application one of certain methods by which the voter chooses to receive an absentee
18 ballot and one of certain methods by which the voter chooses to be notified by the
19 State Board under a certain provision of this Act before each election; ~~requiring that~~
20 ~~a certain absentee ballot application include a statement explaining the process for~~
21 ~~returning a completed absentee ballot if the voter chooses to receive an absentee~~
22 ~~ballot by a certain method; requiring a voter who uses the online permanent absentee~~
23 ballot application to request permanent absentee ballot status or ~~who~~ uses any
24 method to request to receive a blank absentee ballot through the Internet to provide
25 certain information; requiring that a voter who submits a proper ~~application request~~
26 for permanent absentee ballot status be placed on the permanent absentee ballot
27 list; requiring the State Board to send a certain written communication to each voter
28 who is on the permanent absentee ballot list as of a certain date in a certain manner
29 at a certain time; requiring that a certain written communication include certain
30 information; requiring the State Board to send a certain written communication
31 using a different method from the method chosen by the voter under certain
32 circumstances; requiring a local board of elections to send an absentee ballot to each
33 voter on the permanent absentee ballot list each time there is an election; requiring
34 that a voter who has permanent absentee ballot status be removed from the
35 permanent absentee ballot list under certain circumstances; requiring a voter ~~who~~
36 ~~has permanent absentee ballot status to provide certain notice to~~ to notify the local
37 board ~~under certain circumstances; if certain changes occur while the voter has~~
38 permanent absentee ballot status; requiring a local board to enclose a certain
39 notification with a certain confirmation notice sent to a voter who has permanent
40 absentee ballot status and gives notice of a change of address; ~~prohibiting a person~~
41 ~~from canvassing, electioneering, or posting campaign material in a certain manner~~
42 ~~or placing certain material on a ballot drop box; requiring each local board to send a~~
43 ~~certain absentee ballot application to each eligible voter within a certain period of~~
44 ~~time in certain years except under certain circumstances; requiring the State Board~~
45 ~~to contract with a usability consultant on or before a certain date to review all the~~
46 ~~public informational materials and forms related to mail-in voting produced by the~~
47 ~~State Board; requiring the consultant to make certain recommendations to the State~~

Board on or before a certain date; requiring the consultant to make specific recommendations concerning certain matters; requiring the State Board to submit a certain report reports to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date dates; defining a certain term; and generally relating to a permanent absentee ballot list voting a permanent absentee ballot list.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Election Law
Section 1–101(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Election Law
Section 1–101(d–1), 2–304, 2–305, 9–305(c), and 9–311.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Election Law
Section 9–303 and, 9–305(c), 9–310(a), and 16–206
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

~~BY adding to~~
~~Article – Election Law~~
~~Section 9–311.1~~
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
~~(2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)~~

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

Article – Election Law

1–101.

(a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated unless a different meaning is clearly intended from the context.

(D–1) “BALLOT DROP BOX” MEANS A SECURE, DURABLE, AND WEATHERPROOF CONTAINER THAT IS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED BY A LOCAL BOARD OR THE STATE BOARD EXCLUSIVELY FOR VOTERS TO DEPOSIT ELECTION–RELATED MATERIALS IN PERSON, INCLUDING:

(1) ABSENTEE BALLOTS;

1 **(2) ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS; AND**

2 **(3) VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS.**

3 **2-304.**

4 **(A) A LOCAL BOARD SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FACTORS WHEN**
 5 **DETERMINING THE LOCATION OF A BALLOT DROP BOX:**

6 **(1) THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE BALLOT DROP BOX TO HISTORICALLY**
 7 **DISENFRANCHISED COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES,**
 8 **CULTURAL GROUPS, ETHNIC GROUPS, AND MINORITY GROUPS;**

9 **(2) PROXIMITY OF THE BALLOT DROP BOX TO DENSE**
 10 **CONCENTRATIONS OF VOTERS;**

11 **(3) ACCESSIBILITY OF THE BALLOT DROP BOX BY PUBLIC**
 12 **TRANSPORTATION;**

13 **(4) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF BALLOT DROP BOXES THROUGHOUT**
 14 **THE COUNTY; AND**

15 **(5) MAXIMIZING VOTER PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING THROUGH**
 16 **PLACEMENT OF BALLOT DROP BOXES AT COMMUNITY CENTERS AND PUBLIC**
 17 **GATHERING PLACES.**

18 **(A) (B) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION ~~(B)~~ (C) OF THIS SECTION, A LOCAL**
 19 **BOARD SHALL DESIGNATE LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTY AT WHICH A BALLOT DROP**
 20 **BOX WILL BE PLACED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ~~CRITERIA FOR BALLOT DROP BOX~~**
 21 **~~LOCATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD~~ THE FACTORS SET FORTH IN**
 22 **SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

23 **~~(B)~~ (C) (1) EACH LOCAL BOARD SHALL SUBMIT THE PROPOSED**
 24 **LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTY FOR EACH BALLOT DROP BOX TO THE STATE**
 25 **ADMINISTRATOR FOR APPROVAL.**

26 **(2) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL APPROVE A BALLOT DROP**
 27 **BOX LOCATION THAT ~~COMPLIES WITH THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE~~**
 28 **~~BOARD~~ MEETS THE FACTORS ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS**
 29 **SECTION.**

30 **(3) IF A PROPOSED BALLOT DROP BOX LOCATION DOES NOT ~~COMPLY~~**
 31 **~~WITH THE CRITERIA~~ MEET THE FACTORS, THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL:**

1 (I) REQUIRE THAT THE LOCAL BOARD RECONSIDER THE
2 PROPOSED LOCATION FOR ONE OR MORE BALLOT DROP BOXES; AND

3 (II) PROVIDE TO THE LOCAL BOARD A DETAILED EXPLANATION
4 OF WHY THE PROPOSED LOCATION IS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CRITERIA
5 DOES NOT MEET THE FACTORS.

6 (4) IF THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR FINDS THAT THE PROPOSED
7 BALLOT DROP BOX LOCATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR AFTER
8 RECONSIDERATION BY THE LOCAL BOARD UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS
9 SUBSECTION ~~ARE NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CRITERIA~~ DO NOT MEET THE
10 FACTORS, THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR MAY ADD BALLOT DROP BOX LOCATIONS IN
11 THE COUNTY.

12 2-305.

13 (A) (1) A LOCAL BOARD SHALL ENSURE THE SECURITY OF BALLOT DROP
14 BOXES, INCLUDING THROUGH THE USE OF THE FOLLOWING:

15 (I) MONITORING BY SECURITY CAMERAS AT ALL TIMES; AND

16 (II) PERIODIC IN-PERSON VISITS BY APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL.

17 (2) A LOCAL BOARD SHALL HAVE IMMEDIATE ACCESS OR ACCESS
18 WITHIN A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME TO A SECURITY CAMERA USED FOR
19 MONITORING A BALLOT DROP BOX UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

20 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN LAW, A LOCAL BOARD SHALL
21 REMOVE THE ELECTION-RELATED MATERIALS FROM EACH BALLOT DROP BOX AT
22 LEAST ONCE EACH DAY THAT THE BALLOT DROP BOX IS OPEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH
23 THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
24 PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

25 (2) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH CHAIN OF CUSTODY
26 PROCEDURES GOVERNING REMOVAL OF ELECTION-RELATED MATERIALS FROM
27 BALLOT DROP BOXES AND THE RETURN OF THE MATERIALS TO THE LOCAL BOARD.

28 9-303.

29 (a) The State Board shall establish guidelines for the administration of absentee
30 voting by the local boards.

31 (b) The guidelines shall provide for:

- 1 (1) the application process;
- 2 (2) late application for absentee ballots;
- 3 (3) ballot security, including storage of returned ballots;
- 4 (4) determining timeliness of receipt of applications and ballots, including
5 applications and ballots for overseas voters;
- 6 (5) the canvass process;
- 7 (6) notice of the canvass to candidates, political parties, campaign
8 organizations, news media, and the general public;
- 9 (7) observers of the process;
- 10 (8) review of voted ballots and envelopes for compliance with the law and
11 for machine tabulation acceptability;
- 12 (9) standards for disallowance of ballots during the canvass; [and]
- 13 (10) storage and retention of ballots following canvass and certification;
- 14 **AND**
- 15 **(11) THE PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT LIST.**

16 (c) The State Board shall:

- 17 (1) in consultation with the local boards, assess the guidelines before each
18 primary election; and
- 19 (2) revise the guidelines if indicated.

20 9-305.

21 **(C) THE STATE-APPROVED ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION SHALL**
 22 **INCLUDE A STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE PROCESS FOR RETURNING A COMPLETED**
 23 **ABSENTEE BALLOT IF THE VOTER CHOOSES TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY**
 24 **FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION OR THE INTERNET.**

25 **[(c)] (D) An application for an absentee ballot must be received by a local board:**

- 26 **(1) if the voter requests the absentee ballot be sent by mail or facsimile**
 27 **transmission, not later than the Tuesday preceding the election, at the time specified in the**
 28 **guidelines;**

1 (2) if the voter requests the absentee ballot be sent by the Internet, not later
2 than the Friday preceding the election, at the time specified in the guidelines; or

3 (3) if the voter or the voter's duly authorized agent applies for an absentee
4 ballot in person at the local board office, not later than the closing of the polls on election
5 day.

6 9-310.

7 (a) (1) This subsection applies only to an absentee ballot that is sent by mail.

8 (2) (I) An absentee ballot shall be enclosed in specially printed
9 envelopes, the form and content of which shall be prescribed by the State Board.

10 (II) **THE OUTGOING ENVELOPE SHALL INCLUDE A STATEMENT,**
11 **PROMINENTLY PLACED, REQUESTING THAT THE RECIPIENT RETURN THE ABSENTEE**
12 **BALLOT TO THE LOCAL BOARD IF THE INTENDED RECIPIENT NO LONGER LIVES AT**
13 **THAT ADDRESS.**

14 (3) (i) A local board may use either two envelopes or three envelopes.

15 (ii) If two envelopes are used, the inner envelope shall be designated
16 the "ballot/return envelope", and, when issued, it shall fit inside the envelope designated
17 the "outgoing envelope".

18 (iii) If three envelopes are used, the innermost envelope shall be
19 designated the "ballot envelope", which shall fit inside the envelope designated the "return
20 envelope", both of which, when issued, shall fit inside the envelope designated the "outgoing
21 envelope".

22 (iv) The ballot/return envelope described under subparagraph (ii) of
23 this paragraph and the return envelope described under subparagraph (iii) of this
24 paragraph provided to a voter voting by absentee ballot shall include prepaid postage.

25 (4) (i) An absentee ballot shall be accompanied by instructions for
26 postage of the ballot/return envelope or the return envelope.

27 (ii) The instructions for postage shall include:

28 1. a statement that the ballot/return envelope or return
29 envelope includes prepaid postage and may be mailed as is; and

30 2. directions for how a voter may attach postage for the
31 purpose of reducing the costs of the local board.

1 (5) When voted and returned to the local board, an absentee ballot shall be
 2 enclosed in a ballot envelope or ballot/return envelope, on which has been printed an oath
 3 prescribed by the State Board.

4 **9-311.1.**

5 (A) ALL VOTERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT
 6 STATUS.

7 (B) ~~A VOTER MAY APPLY FOR~~ To REQUEST PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT
 8 STATUS BY COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING A VOTER SHALL COMPLETE AND SUBMIT:

9 (1) ~~THE STATE BOARD-APPROVED PERMANENT~~ ABSENTEE BALLOT
 10 APPLICATION AND INDICATE ON THE FORM THAT THE VOTER WISHES TO HAVE
 11 PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS;

12 (2) A WRITTEN REQUEST THAT INCLUDES THE VOTER'S NAME,
 13 RESIDENCE ADDRESS, AND SIGNATURE; OR

14 (3) THE ONLINE ~~PERMANENT~~ ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION
 15 PROVIDED BY THE STATE BOARD AND INDICATE ON THE FORM THAT THE VOTER
 16 WISHES TO HAVE PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS.

17 (C) (1) ~~AT LEAST 60 DAYS BEFORE A PRIMARY ELECTION, A LOCAL BOARD~~
 18 ~~SHALL SEND THE STATE BOARD-APPROVED ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION TO~~
 19 ~~EACH ELIGIBLE VOTER.~~

20 ~~(2)~~ (2) A VOTER MAY APPLY FOR PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS
 21 AT ANY TIME.

22 ~~(2) (3) (2)~~ (2) A VOTER WHO ~~HAS APPLIED FOR~~ REQUESTS PERMANENT
 23 ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS MAY NOT RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE NEXT
 24 ELECTION IF THE APPLICATION REQUEST IS MADE AFTER THE APPLICABLE
 25 DEADLINE SPECIFIED IN § 9-305(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

26 (D) ~~(1)~~ (1) A VOTER SHALL SPECIFY IN ~~THE AN~~ PERMANENT ABSENTEE
 27 BALLOT APPLICATION SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS
 28 SECTION:

29 ~~(1)~~ (1) ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS BY WHICH THE
 30 VOTER CHOOSES TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT:

31 ~~(1)~~ (1) MAIL;

1 (III) THE METHOD BY WHICH THE VOTER HAS CHOSEN TO
 2 RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT; AND

3 (IV) A STATEMENT THAT THE VOTER MUST NOTIFY THE LOCAL
 4 BOARD IF ANY OF THE CHANGES LISTED IN SUBSECTION (J) OF THIS SECTION HAVE
 5 OCCURRED.

6 (3) IF THE STATE BOARD IS UNABLE TO CONTACT A VOTER USING THE
 7 METHOD OF COMMUNICATION CHOSEN BY THE VOTER UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(1)
 8 OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE BOARD SHALL SEND THE WRITTEN COMMUNICATION
 9 USING ANOTHER METHOD IF THE STATE BOARD HAS OTHER CONTACT
 10 INFORMATION FOR THE VOTER.

11 (4) IF THE COMMUNICATION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION IS
 12 SENT BY MAIL, THE ENVELOPE SHALL INCLUDE A STATEMENT, PROMINENTLY
 13 PLACED, REQUESTING THAT THE RECIPIENT RETURN THE COMMUNICATION TO THE
 14 STATE BOARD IF THE INTENDED RECIPIENT NO LONGER LIVES AT THAT ADDRESS.

15 ~~(G)~~ (H) A LOCAL BOARD SHALL SEND AN ABSENTEE BALLOT TO EACH
 16 VOTER ON THE PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT LIST EACH TIME THERE IS AN
 17 ELECTION.

18 ~~(H)~~ (I) A VOTER WHO HAS PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS
 19 SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT LIST IF:

20 (1) THE VOTER REQUESTS TO BE REMOVED FROM THE LIST;

21 (2) THE VOTER IS REMOVED FROM THE STATEWIDE VOTER
 22 REGISTRATION LIST UNDER TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 5 OF THIS ARTICLE; ~~OR~~

23 (3) THE VOTER FAILS TO RETURN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR TWO
 24 CONSECUTIVE STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTIONS; OR

25 (4) ANY MAIL SENT TO THE VOTER BY THE STATE BOARD OR A LOCAL
 26 BOARD IS RETURNED UNDELIVERABLE.

27 ~~(I)~~ (J) A VOTER ~~WHO~~ SHALL NOTIFY THE LOCAL BOARD IF ANY OF THE
 28 FOLLOWING CHANGES OCCUR WHILE THE VOTER HAS PERMANENT ABSENTEE
 29 BALLOT STATUS ~~SHALL NOTIFY THE LOCAL BOARD IF:~~

30 ~~(1) AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IS TO BE SENT TO AN ADDRESS THAT IS~~
 31 ~~DIFFERENT FROM THE ADDRESS PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED BY THE VOTER; OR~~

1 **(1) THE VOTER NO LONGER WISHES TO HAVE PERMANENT ABSENTEE**
2 **BALLOT STATUS;**

3 **(2) THE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE VOTER'S ABSENTEE BALLOT**
4 **SHOULD BE SENT HAS CHANGED; OR**

5 ~~(2)~~ **(3) THE VOTER WISHES TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY A**
6 **DIFFERENT METHOD FROM THE METHOD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED BY THE VOTER.**

7 **(K) IF A VOTER WHO HAS PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS GIVES**
8 **NOTICE OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS UNDER § 3-304 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE LOCAL**
9 **BOARD SHALL ENCLOSE WITH THE CONFIRMATION NOTICE SENT TO THE VOTER**
10 **UNDER § 3-502(B) OF THIS ARTICLE A NOTIFICATION THAT:**

11 **(1) THE VOTER REMAINS INCLUDED ON THE PERMANENT ABSENTEE**
12 **BALLOT LIST; AND**

13 **(2) THE VOTER'S ABSENTEE BALLOT WILL BE SENT TO THE VOTER'S**
14 **NEW ADDRESS.**

15 16-206.

16 (a) A person may not:

17 (1) place any distinguishing mark on the person's own or another person's
18 ballot for the purpose of identifying the ballot;

19 (2) misrepresent the person's ability to mark a ballot or operate voting
20 equipment;

21 (3) interfere or attempt to interfere with a voter while the voter is inside the
22 polling room, marking a ballot, or operating voting equipment;

23 (4) induce or attempt to induce a voter to mark the voter's ballot in a certain
24 way;

25 (5) except for servicing by an authorized person, unlock any locked
26 compartment of a voting device unless instructed to do so by the election director;

27 (6) destroy or deface a ballot;

28 (7) remove a ballot from a building in which voting occurs, except as
29 otherwise provided in this article;

30 (8) delay the delivery of a ballot;

1 (9) possess on or before the day of election an official ballot printed for the
 2 election, unless the possession of the ballot is necessary and appropriate for carrying out the
 3 election process; [or]

4 (10) canvass, electioneer, or post any campaign material in the polling place
 5 or beyond a line established by signs posted in accordance with subsection (b) of this section;

6 **(11) CANVASS, ELECTIONEER, OR POST ANY CAMPAIGN MATERIAL IN A**
 7 **MANNER THAT OBSTRUCTS ACCESS TO A BALLOT DROP BOX; OR**

8 **(12) PLACE ANY CAMPAIGN MATERIAL OR ANY OTHER UNAUTHORIZED**
 9 **MATERIAL ON A BALLOT DROP BOX.**

10 (b) (1) At each polling place, one election judge from each principal political
 11 party shall be designated by the local board and, acting jointly, shall post signs delineating
 12 a line around the entrance and exit of the building that are closest to that part of the building
 13 in which voting occurs.

14 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the
 15 line shall be located as near as practicable to 100 feet from the entrance and exit and shall
 16 be established after consideration of the configuration of the entrance and the effect of
 17 placement on public safety and the flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

18 (ii) In Montgomery County, on approval of the local board, the line
 19 may be located at any point between 25 feet and 100 feet from the entrance and exit.

20 (3) The signs shall contain the words “No Electioneering Beyond this Point”.

21 (c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to
 22 a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than 60 days
 23 or both.

24 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:**

25 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, at least 60 days before the
 26 statewide primary election in 2022 and 2024, each local board of elections shall send the
 27 State Board–approved absentee ballot application to each eligible voter.

28 (b) A local board is not required to send the State Board–approved absentee ballot
 29 application to a voter who has permanent absentee ballot status.

30 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:**

31 (a) On or before August 1, 2021, the State Board of Elections shall contract with a
 32 usability consultant to review all the public informational materials and forms related to
 33 mail-in voting produced by the State Board.

1 **(b) (1)** On or before December 1, 2021, the consultant shall make
2 recommendations to the State Board regarding ways the State Board's public informational
3 materials and forms related to mail-in voting could be made more usable, especially by
4 socioeconomically diverse communities.

5 **(2)** The consultant shall make specific usability recommendations
6 concerning:

7 **(i)** the information related to mail-in voting that appears on the
8 State Board's website;

9 **(ii)** all materials mailed to voters who choose to vote by mail,
10 including envelopes, forms, and instructions; and

11 **(iii)** the system allowing a voter to access information concerning the
12 voter's mail-in ballot.

13 **(c)** On or before February 1, 2022, the State Board shall submit a report to the
14 Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee
15 on Ways and Means, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, that
16 includes:

17 **(1)** the recommendations submitted by the consultant under subsection (b)
18 of this section; and

19 **(2)** the actions the State Board has taken or plans to take to implement the
20 recommendations.

21 **SECTION ~~2~~ 4.** AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 15,
22 2023, the State Board of Elections shall submit to the Senate Education, Health, and
23 Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means, in
24 accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, a report on the number of voters
25 who voted in each precinct polling place in the State in the primary election and the general
26 election in the years 2018, 2020, and 2022.

27 **SECTION ~~2~~ ~~3~~ 5.** AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 ~~October~~ June 1, 2021.