

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 694
Ways and Means

Election Law - Offenses Related to Voting - Penalties

This bill establishes that an individual is not qualified to be a registered voter and is ineligible to vote if (1) the individual has been convicted of willfully and knowingly voting or attempting to vote more than once in an election and (2) less than four years have elapsed since the date of the conviction.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under State law, with certain exceptions, an individual may register to vote if the individual is a citizen of the United States, is at least age 16, and is a resident of the State as of the day the individual seeks to register. A person who had been convicted of a felony and is currently serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment for the conviction is not qualified to be a registered voter. A person who had been convicted of buying or selling votes is also not qualified to be a registered voter.

A person may not willfully and knowingly (1) vote more than once for a candidate for the same office or for the same ballot question or (2) vote or attempt to vote more than once in the same election, or vote in more than one election district or precinct. A person who

violates either of those prohibitions is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for up to five years.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 340 (Senator Gallion) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 5, 2021
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