SENATE BILL 284

By: Senator Washington
Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2022
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning Election Law – Voter Registration Drive – High Schools

FOR the purpose of requiring each local board of elections to conduct a voter registration drive at least once each school year in each public high school in the county in a manner specified in an agreement between the local board and county board of education; requiring each public official responsible for the use of a public high school to make available to the local board of elections, without charge, the space that is needed in the building for the proper conduct of a voter registration drive; and generally relating to voter registration drives conducted in public high schools.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Election Law
Section 3–102(a)(1) and 3–201
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Election Law
Section 3–204.3
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Election Law

3–102.

(a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, an individual may become registered to vote if the individual:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
SENATE BILL 284

is a citizen of the United States;

(ii) is at least 16 years old;

(iii) is a resident of the State as of the day the individual seeks to register; and

(iv) registers pursuant to this title.

An individual may apply to become a registered voter:

(1) at a local board office or the State Board office;

(2) at a registration site administered by a local board;

(3) by mail;

(4) when applying to the Motor Vehicle Administration for the issuance, renewal, or modification of a driver’s license or identification card;

(5) when applying for services at a voter registration agency;

(6) through the State Board’s online voter registration system; or

(7) with the assistance of a volunteer authorized by the State or local board.

An individual who is at least 18 years old or will be 18 years old on or before the day of the next succeeding general or special election may be a volunteer under subsection (a)(7) of this section.

(A) (1) In this section, “voter registration drive” means a voter registration site administered by a local board where voter registration applications approved by the State Board are distributed to individuals eligible to register to vote.

(2) “Voter registration drive” may include:

(I) an event on school property, during school hours, open to each employee of and student enrolled in the school who is or will be 16 years old or older during the immediately following year, where completed voter registration applications are accepted by a
LOCAL BOARD OFFICIAL, EMPLOYEE, OR AUTHORIZED VOLUNTEER FOR
TRANSMITTAL TO THE APPROPRIATE ELECTION OFFICIAL; OR

(II) LOCAL BOARD OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES, OR AUTHORIZED
VOLUNTEERS VISITING CLASSROOMS WITHIN A SCHOOL, DURING SCHOOL HOURS,
DISTRIBUTING VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS TO EACH EMPLOYEE OF AND
STUDENT ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL WHO IS OR WILL BE 16 YEARS OLD OR OLDER
DURING THE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING YEAR AND ACCEPTING COMPLETED VOTER
REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE APPROPRIATE ELECTION
OFFICIAL.

(B) AT LEAST ONCE EACH SCHOOL YEAR, EACH LOCAL BOARD SHALL
CONDUCT A VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE IN EACH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN THE
COUNTY IN A MANNER SPECIFIED IN AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LOCAL BOARD
AND THE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

(C) EACH PUBLIC OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE USE OF A PUBLIC HIGH
SCHOOL SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE LOCAL BOARD, WITHOUT CHARGE, THE
SPACE THAT IS NEEDED IN THE BUILDING FOR THE PROPER CONDUCT OF A VOTER
REGISTRATION DRIVE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
1, 2022.