

Chapter 282

(House Bill 41)

AN ACT concerning

Election Law – Petitions for the Formation of a New Political Party – Process

FOR the purpose of altering the time periods during which a petition for the formation of a new political party or additional signatures to a petition may not be filed; prohibiting signatures submitted with a petition that was officially determined as not meeting certain legal requirements from being resubmitted with a subsequent petition; and generally relating to petitions for the formation of a new political party.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Election Law
Section 4–102(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Election Law

4–102.

(c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a petition for the formation of a new political party, or any additional signatures to a petition, may be filed at any time.

(2) A petition for the formation of a new political party, or any additional signatures to a petition, may be filed:

(i) in the year of an election at which the President is elected except:

1. during the period of time that registration is closed before and after a primary election in accordance with § 3–302(a) of this article; and

2. after the first Monday in [August] **JULY** until registration reopens after the general election in accordance with § 3–302(a) of this article;

(ii) in the year of an election at which the Governor is elected, except after the first Monday in [August] **JULY** until registration reopens after the general election in accordance with § 3–302(a) of this article; or

(iii) when a special primary election and a special election are proclaimed by the Governor in accordance with § 8–710 of this article except:

1. after the fifth Monday before the special primary election through the tenth day following the special primary election; and
2. after the fifth Monday before the special election through the fifteenth day following the special election.

(3) IF AN OFFICIAL DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE THAT A PETITION FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY FAILS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION OR TITLE 6 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE SIGNATURES SUBMITTED WITH THE PETITION MAY NOT BE RESUBMITTED WITH A SUBSEQUENT PETITION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.