

**SB0259/413121/1**

BY: Ways and Means Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 259  
(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, after line 8, insert:

“BY repealing

Article – Election Law

Section 2–303(h) and 10–301.1(c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)”;

and strike in their entirety lines 14 through 18, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, after line 1, insert:

“2–303.

[(h) (1) The requirements of this subsection do not apply if a local board is creating a new precinct or changing a precinct boundary or polling place under subsection (f) of this section during the period beginning 21 days before election day through election day.

(2) Each local board shall:

(i) maintain a contact list of individuals and organizations who wish to be notified about local board meetings at which proposed changes to the locations of polling places will be discussed; and

**SB0259/413121/01 Ways and Means Committee**  
**Amendments to SB 259**  
**Page 2 of 7**

(ii) enable individuals and organizations to register for the contact list maintained in accordance with item (i) of this paragraph.

(3) A local board may not vote to change the location of a polling place unless the local board first:

(i) holds a meeting to discuss the proposed change; and

(ii) provides an opportunity for interested individuals and organizations to testify on the proposed change at the meeting.

(4) At least 14 days before the meeting required under paragraph (3)(i) of this subsection, the local board shall provide written notice of the meeting to:

(i) each individual and organization on the contact list maintained in accordance with paragraph (2)(i) of this subsection; and

(ii) the following elected officials if the official is elected by eligible voters residing in the precinct containing either the current polling place location or the proposed polling place location:

1. the mayor;

2. the county executive;

3. each county commissioner;

4. each county council member;

5. each municipal council member; and

6. each member of the Maryland General Assembly.】”;

in line 14, after “(C)” insert “**(1)**”; in line 15, strike “(1)” and substitute “**(I)**”; in line 16, strike “(2)”; in the same line, after “precinct;” insert a closing bracket; and strike in their entirety lines 17 through 21, inclusive, and substitute:

**“(II) THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF:**

**1. IN THE FIRST STATEWIDE ELECTION HELD AFTER A STATEWIDE REDISTRICTING BASED ON THE CENSUS, THE POLLING PLACE PLAN PROPOSES TO REDUCE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SEPARATE BUILDINGS USED AS POLLING PLACES BELOW THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SEPARATE BUILDINGS USED AS POLLING PLACES IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING GENERAL ELECTION; OR**

**2. IN ANY STATEWIDE ELECTION OTHER THAN THE FIRST STATEWIDE ELECTION HELD AFTER A STATEWIDE REDISTRICTING BASED ON THE CENSUS, THE POLLING PLACE PLAN PROPOSES TO REDUCE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SEPARATE BUILDINGS USED AS POLLING PLACES BELOW THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SEPARATE BUILDINGS USED AS POLLING PLACES IN THE FIRST STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION HELD AFTER THE MOST RECENT STATEWIDE REDISTRICTING BASED ON THE CENSUS.**

**(2) IF REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A POLLING PLACE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE:”.**

On page 3, in line 15, strike “TAKE INTO ACCOUNT” and substitute “**USE**”; in line 26, after “EQUITABLE” insert “**GEOGRAPHIC**”; after line 29, insert:

**“(E) (1) THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY IF A LOCAL BOARD IS CREATING A NEW PRECINCT OR CHANGING A PRECINCT**

(Over)

BOUNDARY OR POLLING PLACE UNDER § 2-303(F) OF THIS SUBTITLE DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING 21 DAYS BEFORE ELECTION DAY THROUGH ELECTION DAY.

(2) EACH LOCAL BOARD SHALL:

(I) MAINTAIN A CONTACT LIST OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO WISH TO BE NOTIFIED ABOUT LOCAL BOARD MEETINGS AT WHICH AN ELECTION PLAN OR ANY PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LOCATIONS OF POLLING PLACES WILL BE DISCUSSED; AND

(II) INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF THE CONTACT LIST AND HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE LIST IN A CONSPICUOUS LOCATION ON THE LOCAL BOARD'S WEBSITE.

(3) A LOCAL BOARD MAY NOT VOTE TO ADOPT AN ELECTION PLAN OR CHANGE THE LOCATION OF A POLLING PLACE UNLESS THE LOCAL BOARD FIRST:

(I) HOLDS A MEETING TO DISCUSS AND VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ELECTION PLAN OR CHANGE IN THE LOCATION OF A POLLING PLACE; AND

(II) PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE WRITTEN OR ORAL TESTIMONY AT THE MEETING ON THE PROPOSED ELECTION PLAN OR CHANGE IN THE LOCATION OF A POLLING PLACE.

**(4) AT LEAST 14 DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (3)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE LOCAL BOARD SHALL:**

**(I) POST THE PROPOSED ELECTION PLAN OR A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE LOCATION OF A POLLING PLACE ON THE LOCAL BOARD'S WEBSITE; AND**

**(II) PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE MEETING TO:**

**1. EACH INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATION ON THE CONTACT LIST MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION;**

**2. IF AN ELECTION PLAN WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING, THE ELECTED OFFICIALS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION WHO REPRESENT ALL OR ANY PORTION OF THE COUNTY; OR**

**3. IF A CHANGE IN THE LOCATION OF A POLLING PLACE WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING, THE ELECTED OFFICIALS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION WHO REPRESENT THE PRECINCT CONTAINING EITHER THE CURRENT POLLING PLACE LOCATION OR THE PROPOSED POLLING PLACE LOCATION.**

**(5) IF REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (4)(II)2 OR 3 OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE LOCAL BOARD SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE MEETING TO:**

**(I) THE MAYOR;**

**(II) THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE;**

(Over)

(III) EACH COUNTY COMMISSIONER;

(IV) EACH COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER;

(V) EACH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER; AND

(VI) EACH MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(F) THE LOCAL BOARD SHALL SUBMIT TO THE STATE BORAD WITH THE LOCAL BOARD'S ELECTION PLAN ANY WRITTEN TESTIMONY AND A SUMMARY OF ANY ORAL TESTIMONY ON THE ELECTION PLAN PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC AT THE MEETING AT WHICH THE LOCAL BOARD DISCUSSED AND VOTED ON THE ELECTION PLAN.”;

and in line 30, strike “(E)” and substitute:

“(G) (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL VOTE ON THE ELECTION PLAN SUBMITTED BY EACH LOCAL BOARD.

(2)”.

On page 4, in line 1, strike “(1)” and substitute “(I)”; in line 3, strike “(2)” and substitute “(II)”; in line 4, strike “(3)” and substitute “(III)”; in line 6, strike “(F)” and substitute “(H)”; in line 8, after “Board” insert “VOTES ON AN ELECTION PLAN AND”; in line 9, strike “AN” and substitute “THE”; in the same line, strike “(E)” and substitute “(G)”; in line 11, strike “rejected” and substitute “VOTED ON”; and in line 16, strike “consider” and substitute “USE”.

**SB0259/413121/01 Ways and Means Committee**  
**Amendments to SB 259**  
**Page 7 of 7**

On page 5, in line 3, strike “approval” and substitute “**REVIEW**”; strike in their entirety lines 4 and 5, inclusive; in line 6, strike “(3)” and substitute “**(2)**”; in line 10, strike “require” and substitute “**REQUEST**”; in line 14, strike “(4)” and substitute “**(3)**”; and in line 16, strike “(3)” and substitute “**(2)**”.