

HOUSE BILL 153

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HB 436/24 – W&M

(PRE-FILED)

51r0779
CF 51r0780

By: **Delegates Fair, Feldmark, Kaufman, Lehman, Palakovich Carr, Pruski, Ruth, Stewart, and Terrasa**

Requested: September 9, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 11, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Voter Registration – Age and Notification to Minors**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the age at which an individual may register to vote; requiring
4 that a voter notification card sent to an individual under a certain age include
5 information regarding when the individual will be eligible to vote; requiring the
6 election director in the county where a registered voter becomes eligible to vote under
7 a certain provision of law to send a certain notice to the voter; and generally relating
8 to voter registration.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Election Law
11 Section 3–102 and 3–301
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Election Law**

17 3–102.

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.



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

3 (i) is a citizen of the United States;

4 (ii) is at least [16] **15** years **AND 9 MONTHS** old;

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

7 (iv) registers pursuant to this title.

8 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection, an individual
9 under the age of 18 years:

10 (i) may vote in a primary election in which candidates are
11 nominated for a general or special election that will occur when the individual is at least
12 18 years old; and

13 (ii) may not vote in any other election.

14 (b) An individual is not qualified to be a registered voter if the individual:

15 (1) has been convicted of a felony and is currently serving a court-ordered
16 sentence of imprisonment for the conviction;

17 (2) is under guardianship for mental disability and a court of competent
18 jurisdiction has specifically found by clear and convincing evidence that the individual
19 cannot communicate, with or without accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting
20 process; or

21 (3) has been convicted of buying or selling votes.

22 3-301.

23 (a) When a voter registration application is received by a local board, the local
24 board shall:

25 (1) if the applicant resides in the county of the local board, determine
26 whether the applicant is qualified to become a registered voter; or

27 (2) if the applicant resides in a different county in the State, immediately
28 forward the application to the proper county.

29 (b) The information contained in the voter registration application for a qualified
30 applicant shall be electronically entered into the statewide voter registration list on an
31 expedited basis at the time voter registration information is provided to the local board and

1 shall be assigned to the county in which the applicant resides unless registration is closed
2 pursuant to § 3–302 of this subtitle.

3 (c) (1) The election director in the county where an applicant resides shall
4 send a voter acknowledgment notice, in a format prescribed by the State Board, to each
5 applicant informing the applicant whether he or she is qualified to become registered, and,
6 if not qualified, the reasons why.

7 (2) (i) A voter notification card sent to a qualified applicant may serve
8 as a voter acknowledgment notice.

9 (ii) 1. The voter notification card shall contain:

10 A. the name and address of the voter, the date of issue, and
11 the district or ward and precinct of the voter; AND

12 B. IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS,
13 INFORMATION REGARDING WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.

14 2. The card is evidence that the individual to whom it is
15 issued is a registered voter on the date appearing on the card.

16 3. The election director shall issue a replacement card on
17 request of the voter and a new card when a relevant change is made in the voter's
18 registration record if the voter continues to reside in the county.

19 (D) (1) THE ELECTION DIRECTOR IN THE COUNTY WHERE A REGISTERED
20 VOTER WHO BECOMES ELIGIBLE TO VOTE UNDER § 3–102(A)(2) OF THIS TITLE
21 RESIDES SHALL SEND TO THE VOTER:

22 (I) A NOTICE THAT THE VOTER IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE
23 NEXT SCHEDULED PRIMARY ELECTION; AND

24 (II) INFORMATION ON THE VOTING METHODS AVAILABLE TO
25 THE REGISTERED VOTER AND THE LOCATION OF THE APPLICABLE EARLY VOTING
26 CENTERS AND POLLING PLACE.

27 (2) THE ELECTION DIRECTOR SHALL SEND THE NOTICE REQUIRED
28 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DURING THE TIME PERIOD
29 DETERMINED BY THE STATE BOARD.

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