

HOUSE BILL 153

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HB 436/24 – W&M

(PRE-FILED)

5lr0779
CF 5lr0780

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

A BILL ENTITLED

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.

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (iv) registers pursuant to this title.

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

6 (i) may vote in a primary election in which candidates are
7 nominated for a general or special election that will occur when the individual is at least
8 18 years old; and

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

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

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

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

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

18 3-301.

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

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

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

25 (b) The information contained in the voter registration application for a qualified
26 applicant shall be electronically entered into the statewide voter registration list on an
27 expedited basis at the time voter registration information is provided to the local board and
28 shall be assigned to the county in which the applicant resides unless registration is closed
29 pursuant to § 3-302 of this subtitle.

30 (c) (1) The election director in the county where an applicant resides shall
31 send a voter acknowledgment notice, in a format prescribed by the State Board, to each

1 applicant informing the applicant whether he or she is qualified to become registered, and,
2 if not qualified, the reasons why.

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 (D) (1) THE ELECTION DIRECTOR IN THE COUNTY WHERE A REGISTERED
16 VOTER WHO BECOMES ELIGIBLE TO VOTE UNDER § 3-102(A)(2) OF THIS TITLE
17 RESIDES SHALL SEND TO THE VOTER:

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

20 (II) INFORMATION ON THE VOTING METHODS AVAILABLE TO
21 THE REGISTERED VOTER AND THE LOCATION OF THE APPLICABLE EARLY VOTING
22 CENTERS AND POLLING PLACE.

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

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