

HOUSE BILL 201

G1

HB 1489/24 – W&M

(PRE-FILED)

5lr1487

CF SB 93

By: ~~Delegate Wilkins~~ **Delegates Wilkins, Young, Wims, and Wells**

Requested: October 30, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 19, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Absentee ~~Ballot Application – Sending to Eligible Voters Before~~**
3 **~~Primary Elections~~ Ballots – Notice to Request Application**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each local board of elections to ~~send the~~ include a certain
5 notice regarding how to request an absentee ballot application approved by the State
6 Board of Elections ~~to each eligible voter at least a certain number of days before each~~
7 ~~statewide primary election, unless the voter has permanent absentee ballot status,~~
8 with certain mailings to voters and eligible voters for a certain purpose, except under
9 certain circumstances; and generally relating to absentee ballot applications.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Election Law

12 Section 9–305(e)

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Election Law**

18 9–305.

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.



(E) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ~~AT LEAST 60 DAYS BEFORE EACH STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION, EACH LOCAL~~ EACH LOCAL BOARD SHALL ~~SEND THE~~ INCLUDE A WRITTEN NOTICE REGARDING HOW TO REQUEST A STATE-APPROVED ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION WITH A SPECIMEN BALLOT MAILED UNDER § 8-102 OF THIS ARTICLE AND ANY OTHER MAILING TO ~~EACH ELIGIBLE VOTER~~ VOTERS OR ELIGIBLE VOTERS TO FURTHER AWARENESS OF THE OPTION OF ABSENTEE VOTING.

(2) A LOCAL BOARD IS NOT REQUIRED TO ~~SEND THE~~ ~~STATE-APPROVED ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION TO~~ INCLUDE THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IN A SPECIMEN BALLOT OR OTHER MAILING:

(I) THAT IS SENT TO A VOTER WHO HAS PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS UNDER § 9-311.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(II) MORE THAN ONCE PER ELECTION; OR

(III) FOR A VOTE-BY-MAIL ELECTION.

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.