

HOUSE BILL 890

G1

5lr2886

By: **Delegates Bouchat and Hornberger**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Primary Elections – Change of Political Party Affiliation**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a voter to change the voter’s political party affiliation at an
4 early voting center or precinct polling place during a primary election and vote the
5 ballot for the voter’s new political party affiliation; and generally relating to
6 changing political party affiliation and voting in a primary election.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Election Law
9 Section 3–303
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Election Law**

15 3–303.

16 (a) Notification of a change of party affiliation or a change to or from a decline
17 may be made:

18 (1) by information provided on a voter registration application by the same
19 methods provided for registration under Subtitle 2 of this title;

20 (2) by written notice, signed by the voter and sent by mail or otherwise
21 delivered to the local board in the county where the voter’s current voter registration
22 address is located or to which the voter has moved;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) by making application in person at the office of the local board in the
2 county where the voter's current voter registration address is located or to which the voter
3 has moved;

4 (4) by information on a voter authority card or other appropriate form filled
5 out in a polling place; or

6 (5) by changing a name or address with the Motor Vehicle Administration.

7 (b) Party affiliation changes or changes to or from a decline:

8 (1) shall be processed at any time that registration is open; and

9 (2) except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, may not be processed
10 when registration is closed.

11 (c) **(1)** If a local board receives a request for a party affiliation change after the
12 close of registration, the local board shall make the change and it shall become effective for
13 the next election provided:

14 **[(1)] (I)** there is sufficient evidence, as determined by the local boards
15 pursuant to regulations adopted by the State Board, that the request was mailed on or
16 before the close of registration for that election; or

17 **[(2)] (II)** the request was submitted by the voter to the Motor Vehicle
18 Administration, a voter registration agency, another local board, or the State Board on or
19 before the close of registration for that election.

20 **(2) DURING A PRIMARY ELECTION, A VOTER MAY APPEAR IN PERSON**
21 **AT AN EARLY VOTING CENTER OR PRECINCT POLLING PLACE AND CHANGE THE**
22 **VOTER'S POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION AND VOTE THE BALLOT FOR THE VOTER'S**
23 **NEW POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION.**

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