

SENATE BILL 267

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(PRE-FILED)

5lr0175
CF HB 41

By: **Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Departmental – State Board of Elections)**

Requested: September 19, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Petitions for the Formation of a New Political Party – Process**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the time periods during which a petition for the formation of a
4 new political party or additional signatures to a petition may not be filed; prohibiting
5 signatures submitted with a petition that was officially determined as not meeting
6 certain legal requirements from being resubmitted with a subsequent petition; and
7 generally relating to petitions for the formation of a new political party.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Election Law
10 Section 4–102(c)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Election Law**

16 4–102.

17 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a petition for the
18 formation of a new political party, or any additional signatures to a petition, may be filed
19 at any time.

20 (2) A petition for the formation of a new political party, or any additional
21 signatures to a petition, may be filed:

22 (i) in the year of an election at which the President is elected except:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 1. during the period of time that registration is closed before
2 and after a primary election in accordance with § 3–302(a) of this article; and

3 2. after the first Monday in [August] **JULY** until registration
4 reopens after the general election in accordance with § 3–302(a) of this article;

5 (ii) in the year of an election at which the Governor is elected, except
6 after the first Monday in [August] **JULY** until registration reopens after the general
7 election in accordance with § 3–302(a) of this article; or

8 (iii) when a special primary election and a special election are
9 proclaimed by the Governor in accordance with § 8–710 of this article except:

10 1. after the fifth Monday before the special primary election
11 through the tenth day following the special primary election; and

12 2. after the fifth Monday before the special election through
13 the fifteenth day following the special election.

14 **(3) IF AN OFFICIAL DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE THAT A**
15 **PETITION FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY FAILS TO MEET THE**
16 **REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION OR TITLE 6 OF THIS ARTICLE,**
17 **THE SIGNATURES SUBMITTED WITH THE PETITION MAY NOT BE RESUBMITTED WITH**
18 **A SUBSEQUENT PETITION.**

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
20 1, 2025.