G1 5lr1178 CF 5lr1179

By: Senator Kagan

AN ACT concerning

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2025 Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

2 Election Law – Statewide Voter Registration Application – Prepaid Postage

FOR the purpose of requiring that a statewide voter registration application include a return envelope or envelope template with prepaid postage that an applicant may use to return the application to the State Board of Elections; and generally relating to prepaid postage for the statewide voter registration application.

- 7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 8 Article Election Law
- 9 Section 3–202
- 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 3–202.

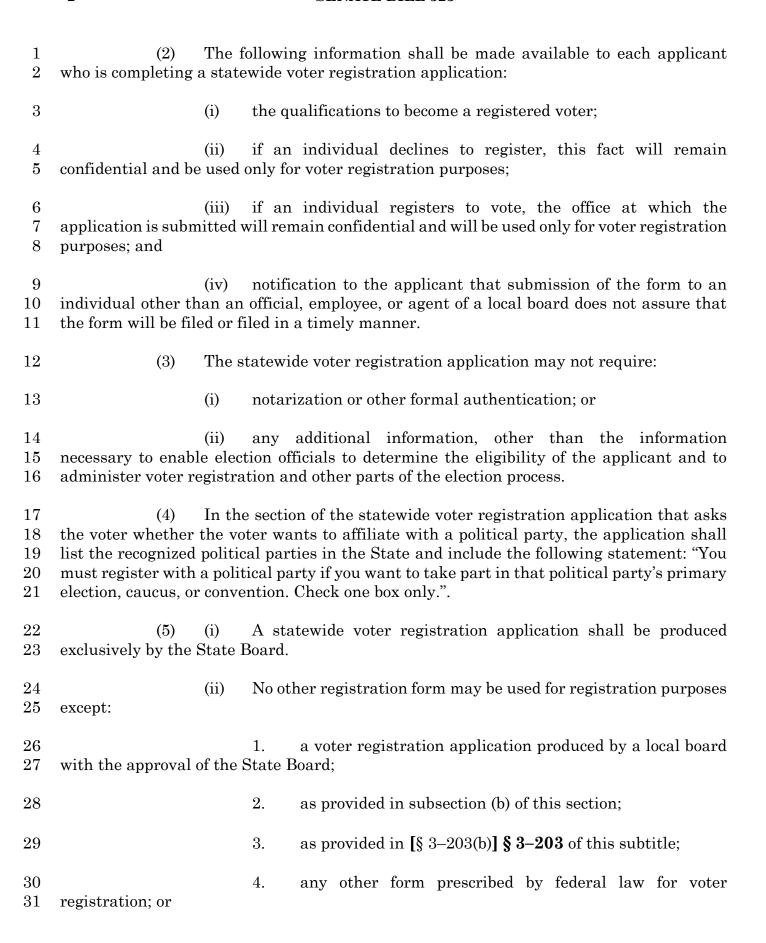
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- 16 (a) (1) The statewide voter registration application shall:
- 17 (i) require the signature of the applicant, subject to the penalties of 18 perjury, by which the applicant swears or affirms that the information contained in the 19 registration application is true and that the applicant meets all of the qualifications to 20 become a registered voter;
- 21 (ii) state the penalties for the submission of a false application; and
- 22 (iii) provide the applicant with the opportunity to cancel a current 23 registration.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.





- 5. a federal write—in absentee ballot if used by a voter authorized to vote a federal write—in absentee ballot under federal law.
- 3 (b) The voter registration application form prescribed pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 shall satisfy the requirements prescribed under subsection (a) of this section and be accepted by the appropriate election official for purposes of voter registration.
- 7 (c) The application described in this section may be used by a registered voter to 8 change the voter's name, address, or party affiliation.
- 9 **(D) (1) A** STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION SHALL 10 INCLUDE A RETURN ENVELOPE OR ENVELOPE TEMPLATE WITH PREPAID POSTAGE 11 THAT THE APPLICANT MAY USE TO RETURN THE APPLICATION TO THE STATE 12 BOARD.
- 13 (2) A STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY INSTRUCTIONS FOR POSTAGE, INCLUDING:
- 15 (I) A STATEMENT THAT THE RETURN ENVELOPE OR ENVELOPE 16 TEMPLATE INCLUDES PREPAID POSTAGE AND MAY BE MAILED AS IS; AND
- 17 (II) DIRECTIONS FOR HOW AN APPLICANT MAY ATTACH 18 POSTAGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE COSTS OF THE LOCAL BOARD.
- 19 (3) RETURN ENVELOPES OR ENVELOPE TEMPLATES SHALL BE 20 PREPRINTED WITH THE ADDRESS OF THE STATE BOARD FOR PURPOSES OF 21 RETURNING THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION.
- SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2025.