61 5lr0836 CF HB 525

By: Senator Hester

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2025 Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

 $Committee \ Report: Favorable$

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 22, 2025

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1	AN	ACT	concerning

- 2 Election Law Influence on a Voter's Voting Decision By Use of Fraud Prohibition
- FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from using fraud to influence or attempt to influence a voter's voting decision; defining "fraud" to include the use of synthetic media; and generally relating to the use of fraud to influence a voter's voting decision.
- 6 media; and generally relating to the use of fraud to influence a voter's voting decision
- 7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 8 Article Election Law
- 9 Section 16–201
- 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 16–201.
- 16 (a) (1) In this section[, "influence"] THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE 17 MEANINGS INDICATED.
- 18 (2) "FRAUD" INCLUDES THE USE OF SYNTHETIC MEDIA.

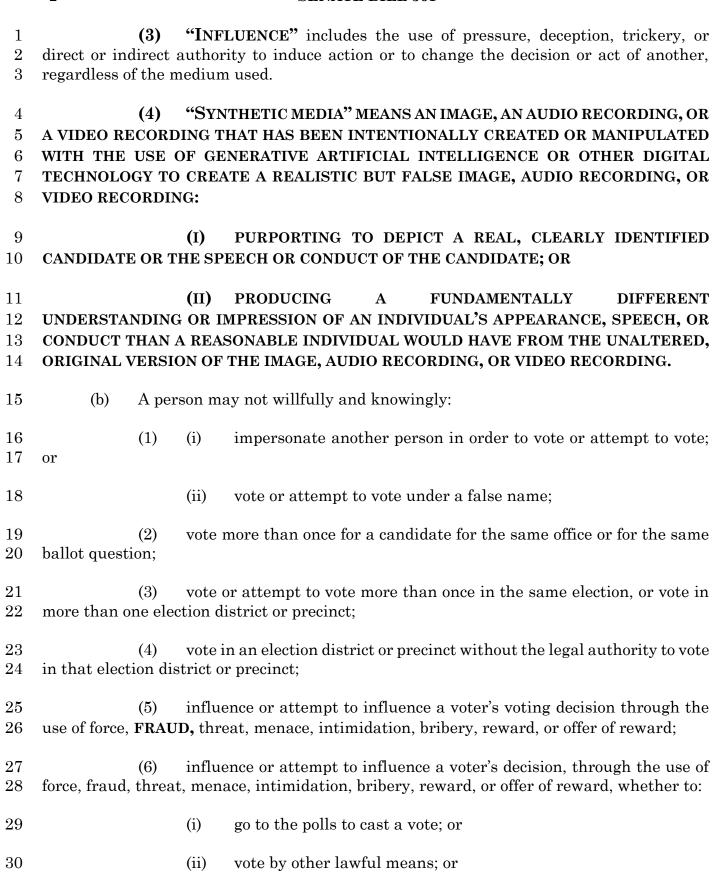
EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

<u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.

Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.





1 2 3	(7) engage in conduct that results or has the intent to result in the denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race, color, or disability.
4 5 6	(c) Except as provided in \S 16–1002 of this title, a person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine of not more than $\$5,000$ or imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both.
7	(d) A person who violates this section is subject to \S 5–106(b) of the Courts Article.
8	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2025 .
	Approved:
	Governor.
	President of the Senate.
	Speaker of the House of Delegates.