

SENATE BILL 361

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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

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Influence on a Voter’s Voting Decision By Use of Fraud –**
3 **Prohibition**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from using fraud to influence or attempt to
5 influence a voter’s voting decision; defining “fraud” to include the use of synthetic
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.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

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



1 (7) engage in conduct that results or has the intent to result in the denial
2 or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race,
3 color, or disability.

4 (c) Except as provided in § 16–1002 of this title, a person who violates this section
5 is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000 or
6 imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both.

7 (d) A person who violates this section is subject to § 5–106(b) of the Courts Article.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
9 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.