

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 115
Ways and Means

(Delegate R. Long)

Election Law - Polling Places - Establishing Voter Identity (Voter Privacy Act of 2025)

This bill authorizes an in-person voter – in place of stating the voter’s month and day of birth – to establish the voter’s identity at the request of an election judge by presenting (1) the voter’s voter registration card; (2) the voter’s valid Maryland driver’s license; or (3) any identification card that contains a photograph of the voter and is issued to the voter by a political subdivision of the State, the State, the federal government, or any unit of a political subdivision of the State, the State, or the federal government.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$25,000 in FY 2026 only. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	25,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$25,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: For each individual who seeks to vote, an election judge has to:

- locate the voter's name in the election register or inactive list;
- establish the voter's identity by requesting that the voter state their month and day of birth and comparing the response to the information in the election register;
- verify the address of the voter's residence, unless the voter's personal information has been deemed confidential by the local board of elections, in which case an alternative verification method, established by the State Board of Elections (SBE), must be conducted; and
- have the voter sign a voting authority card.

Upon completion of those procedures, a voter is entitled to vote a regular ballot. If a voter's name is not found on the election register or the inactive voter list, the voter is referred to vote a provisional ballot.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$25,000 in fiscal 2026 only, to revise SBE's print and online election judge training materials.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 142 of 2024 and HB 926 of 2023.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Kent and Worcester counties; Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 26, 2025
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