

Chapter 428

(House Bill 115)

AN ACT concerning

**Election Law – Individuals Released From State Correctional Facilities –
Automatic Restoration of Voter Registration**

FOR the purpose of requiring, on or before a certain date, the State Board of Elections and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to jointly develop and implement certain procedures and a certain electronic transmission process for the restoration of voter registration for individuals released from incarceration at a State correctional facility; requiring the Department ~~of Public Safety and Correctional Services~~ to transmit a certain list of individuals released from incarceration at a State correctional facility to the State ~~Board of Elections~~ in a certain manner; requiring the State Board to ~~automatically~~ promptly restore the voter registration of certain individuals released from State correctional facilities who were registered to vote in the State before being incarcerated; prohibiting certain information regarding ~~voters registered through the Department~~ the voter registration agency through which a formerly incarcerated voter has registered from being disclosed ~~under the Public Information Act~~ to the public; and generally relating to automatic restoration of voter registration for individuals released from State correctional facilities.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Correctional Services

Section 1–101(a), (f), and (q) and 2–601

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2025 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to

Article – Election Law

Section 3–203.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Correctional Services

1–101.

(a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated.

(f) “Department” means the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

(q) (1) “State correctional facility” means a correctional facility that is operated by the State.

(2) “State correctional facility” includes:

(i) the Patuxent Institution;

(ii) the Baltimore City Detention Center; and

(iii) the centralized booking facility in Baltimore City that is operated by the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

2–601.

The Department shall:

(1) provide each individual who is released from a correctional facility with a voter registration application and documentation with the individual’s discharge papers that informs the individual that the individual’s voting rights have been restored;

(2) display a sign in each parole and probation office, in a conspicuous location where notices to the public are customarily posted, indicating that any individual who is no longer incarcerated has the right to vote; and

(3) post a notice, in a conspicuous location on the Department’s website, indicating that any individual who is no longer incarcerated has the right to vote.

Article – Election Law

3–203.1.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1–101 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.

(B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2028, THE STATE BOARD AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES JOINTLY SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROCEDURES AND AN ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION PROCESS THAT COMPLY WITH THIS SECTION FOR THE RESTORATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION FOR INDIVIDUALS RELEASED FROM INCARCERATION AT A STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.

~~(B)~~ (C) ON A ~~WEEKLY~~ MONTHLY BASIS, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES SHALL ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMIT TO THE STATE BOARD A LIST THAT INCLUDES THE ~~NAME AND NEW RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF~~ FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS RELEASED FROM INCARCERATION AT A STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING ~~WEEK~~ MONTH:

(1) THE INDIVIDUAL’S FULL NAME;

(2) THE INDIVIDUAL’S DATE OF BIRTH;

(3) THE LAST FOUR DIGITS OF THE INDIVIDUAL’S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, DRIVER’S LICENSE NUMBER, OR STATE-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION CARD NUMBER;

(4) THE DATE THE INDIVIDUAL WAS RELEASED FROM INCARCERATION; AND

(5) THE INDIVIDUAL’S NEW RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

~~(E)~~ (D) ON RECEIPT OF THE LIST UNDER SUBSECTION ~~(B)~~ (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE BOARD SHALL IDENTIFY EACH INDIVIDUAL ON THE LIST WHO WAS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE STATE BEFORE BEING INCARCERATED AND WHOSE NEW RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS IS LOCATED IN THE STATE.

~~(D)~~ (E) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ~~AUTOMATICALLY~~ PROMPTLY RESTORE THE VOTER REGISTRATION OF EACH INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED UNDER SUBSECTION ~~(E)~~ (D) OF THIS SECTION AT THE INDIVIDUAL’S NEW RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AND GIVE THE INDIVIDUAL ACTIVE VOTER STATUS.

~~(E)~~ (F) WITH THE VOTER NOTIFICATION CARD THAT IS SENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 3-301(C) OF THIS TITLE TO EACH INDIVIDUAL WHOSE VOTER REGISTRATION IS RESTORED UNDER SUBSECTION ~~(D)~~ (E) OF THIS SECTION, THE ELECTION DIRECTOR SHALL ENCLOSE A NOTICE THAT INCLUDES A STATEMENT THAT:

(1) THE INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN REGISTERED TO VOTE AT THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS THE INDIVIDUAL PROVIDED TO A STATE AGENCY;

(2) THE INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE STATE IN ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL ELECTIONS; AND

(3) IF THE INDIVIDUAL WISHES TO DECLINE VOTER REGISTRATION, OR IF THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS TO UPDATE THE INDIVIDUAL’S RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, THE INDIVIDUAL SHOULD CONTACT THE STATE BOARD OR THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL BOARD.

~~(F)~~ (G) NOTWITHSTANDING ~~THE PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT, THE FACT THAT A PARTICULAR VOTER WAS REGISTERED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES UNDER THIS SECTION § 3-506 OF THIS TITLE AND THE PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT, THE IDENTITY OF THE VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCY THROUGH WHICH A FORMERLY INCARCERATED VOTER HAS REGISTERED UNDER THIS SECTION~~ MAY NOT BE DISCLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2026.