

HOUSE BILL 182

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr0669
CF SB 237

By: **Delegate Stein**

Requested: August 1, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 22, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Presidential Electors – Selection and Voting**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the procedures for the selection of presidential elector
4 nominees and alternate presidential elector nominees; requiring the State
5 Administrator of Elections to preside and serve as secretary at a certain meeting of
6 certain presidential electors; altering the procedures for the meeting of presidential
7 electors; establishing procedures for the preparation, delivery, signing, and
8 transmission of an amended certificate of ascertainment after the vote of the State's
9 presidential electors under certain circumstances; and generally relating to
10 presidential electors.

11 BY repealing

12 Article – Election Law

13 Section 8–503 through 8–505

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article – Election Law

18 Section 1–101(a)

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY adding to

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 Article – Election Law
 2 Section 1–101(ii–2) and (tt–1), 8–504, 8–506, 8–507, and 8–509
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland
 4 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 6 Article – Election Law
 7 Section 1–101(tt–1) ~~and 8–503 through 8–505~~
 8 Annotated Code of Maryland
 9 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 11 Article – Election Law
 12 Section ~~8–504 and 8–503 through~~ 8–505
 13 Annotated Code of Maryland
 14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
 15 (As enacted by Chapters 43 and 44 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007)

16 BY repealing
 17 Chapters 43 and 44 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007
 18 Section 3

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 20 Chapters 43 and 44 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007
 21 Section 4

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 23 That Section(s) 8–503 through 8–505 of Article – Election Law of the Annotated Code of
 24 Maryland be repealed.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
 26 as follows:

27 **Article – Election Law**

28 1–101.

29 (a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated unless a
 30 different meaning is clearly intended from the context.

31 **(II–2) “PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR” MEANS AN ELECTOR FOR PRESIDENT AND**
 32 **VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.**

33 **(TT–1) “UNAFFILIATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE” MEANS A**
 34 **CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE**

1 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT BY MEANS OTHER THAN NOMINATION BY A POLITICAL
2 PARTY.

3 [(tt-1)] (TT-2) “Uniformed services” has the meaning stated in § 9-901 of the
4 State Government Article.

5 8-503.

6 [(a) Each political party shall nominate or provide for the nomination of
7 candidates for presidential elector of the party in accordance with party rules.

8 (b) The number of candidates nominated by each political party shall be the
9 number that this State is entitled to elect.]

10 (A) (1) FOR EACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR, A POLITICAL PARTY
11 CONTESTING THE POSITION, OR AN UNAFFILIATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE,
12 SHALL SUBMIT TO THE STATE BOARD THE NAMES OF TWO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.

13 (2) ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS SHALL BE DESIGNATED
14 “PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOMINEE” AND THE OTHER “ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL
15 ELECTOR NOMINEE”.

16 [(c)] (B) (1) The names and residential addresses of [individuals nominated
17 as candidates for presidential elector] THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOMINEES AND
18 ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOMINEES SUBMITTED TO THE STATE BOARD
19 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION by a political party shall be
20 certified to the State Board by the presiding officers of the political party.

21 (2) The names and residential addresses of [individuals nominated as
22 candidates for presidential elector] THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOMINEES AND
23 ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOMINEES SUBMITTED TO THE STATE BOARD
24 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION by a candidate for President
25 of the United States who is nominated by petition shall be certified to the State Board by
26 the candidate.

27 (3) The NOMINEES FOR PRESIDENTIAL electors AND ALTERNATE
28 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS shall be certified to the State Board at least 30 days before the
29 general election.

30 [(d)] (C) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY IF § 8-5A-01 OF THIS
31 TITLE IS IN EFFECT.

32 (2) If the number of presidential electors nominated is less than or greater
33 than the State’s number of electoral votes, presidential electors shall be nominated as
34 provided for under Article III of § 8-5A-01 of this title.

1 **8-504.**

2 (A) EACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOMINEE AND ALTERNATE
3 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOMINEE OF A POLITICAL PARTY SHALL EXECUTE THE
4 FOLLOWING PLEDGE: "IF SELECTED FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENTIAL
5 ELECTOR, I AGREE TO SERVE AND TO MARK MY BALLOTS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE
6 PRESIDENT FOR THE NOMINEES FOR THOSE OFFICES OF THE PARTY THAT
7 NOMINATED ME."

8 (B) EACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOMINEE AND ALTERNATE
9 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOMINEE OF AN UNAFFILIATED PRESIDENTIAL
10 CANDIDATE SHALL EXECUTE THE FOLLOWING PLEDGE: "IF SELECTED FOR THE
11 POSITION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR AS A NOMINEE OF AN UNAFFILIATED
12 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, I AGREE TO SERVE AND TO MARK MY BALLOTS FOR THAT
13 CANDIDATE AND FOR THAT CANDIDATE'S VICE PRESIDENTIAL RUNNING MATE."

14 (C) THE EXECUTED PLEDGES SHALL ACCOMPANY THE SUBMISSION OF THE
15 CORRESPONDING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOMINEE NAMES TO THE STATE BOARD.

16 (D) IF, AFTER THE NOMINATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OR VICE
17 PRESIDENT BY A POLITICAL PARTY AND BEFORE THE MEETING OF PRESIDENTIAL
18 ELECTORS UNDER § 8-508 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE CANDIDATE DIES OR WITHDRAWS
19 AS A CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE
20 POLITICAL PARTY, THE PLEDGE EXECUTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS
21 SECTION OR § 8-507(D) OF THIS SUBTITLE APPLIES TO THE SUCCESSOR CANDIDATE
22 FOR THAT OFFICE NOMINATED BY THE POLITICAL PARTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
23 PARTY RULES.

24 [8-504.] 8-505.

25 (a) (1) At the general election for President and Vice President of the United
26 States there shall be elected, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the number
27 of presidential electors to which this State is entitled.

28 (2) Presidential electors shall be elected:

29 (I) IF § 8-5A-01 OF THIS TITLE IS NOT IN EFFECT, AT LARGE BY
30 THE VOTERS OF THE ENTIRE STATE; OR

31 (II) IF § 8-5A-01 OF THIS TITLE IS IN EFFECT, under the
32 procedure provided in § 8-5A-01 of this title.

1 (b) (1) The names of the candidates for the office of presidential elector may
2 not be printed on the ballot.

3 (2) A vote for the candidates for President and Vice President of a political
4 party shall be considered to be and counted as a vote for each of the NOMINEES FOR
5 presidential [electors] ELECTOR of the political party [nominated] SUBMITTED in
6 accordance with § 8-503 of this subtitle.

7 (3) A VOTE FOR AN UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT AND
8 VICE PRESIDENT SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO BE AND COUNTED AS A VOTE FOR EACH
9 OF THE NOMINEES FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SUBMITTED BY THE UNAFFILIATED
10 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TO THE STATE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 8-503 OF
11 THIS SUBTITLE.

12 **8-506.**

13 IN SUBMITTING THIS STATE'S CERTIFICATE OF ASCERTAINMENT AS
14 REQUIRED BY ~~3 U.S.C. § 6~~ **3 U.S.C. § 5**, THE GOVERNOR SHALL CERTIFY THE
15 STATE'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS AND STATE IN THE CERTIFICATE THAT:

16 (1) THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS WILL SERVE AS PRESIDENTIAL
17 ELECTORS UNLESS A VACANCY OCCURS IN THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR
18 BEFORE THE END OF THE MEETING AT WHICH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR VOTES ARE
19 CAST, IN WHICH CASE A SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR WILL FILL THE
20 VACANCY; AND

21 (2) IF A SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR IS APPOINTED TO FILL
22 A VACANCY, THE GOVERNOR WILL SUBMIT AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF
23 ASCERTAINMENT STATING THE NAMES ON THE FINAL LIST OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
24 ELECTORS.

25 **8-507.**

26 (A) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL PRESIDE AND SERVE AS
27 SECRETARY AT THE MEETING OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS DESCRIBED IN **§ 8-508**
28 **OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

29 (B) THE POSITION OF A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOT PRESENT TO VOTE IS
30 VACANT.

31 (C) ~~THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR~~ PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS STILL SERVING
32 SHALL APPOINT AN INDIVIDUAL AS A SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR TO FILL
33 A VACANCY AS FOLLOWS:

1 (1) IF THE ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR IS PRESENT TO
2 VOTE, BY APPOINTING THE ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR FOR THE VACANT
3 POSITION;

4 (2) IF THE ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR FOR THE VACANT
5 POSITION IS NOT PRESENT TO VOTE, BY APPOINTING A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR
6 CHOSEN BY LOT FROM AMONG THE ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS PRESENT
7 TO VOTE WHO WERE NOMINATED BY THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY OR THE
8 UNAFFILIATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE;

9 (3) IF THE NUMBER OF ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS
10 PRESENT TO VOTE IS INSUFFICIENT TO FILL ANY VACANT POSITION IN ACCORDANCE
11 WITH ITEM (1) OR (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, BY APPOINTING ANY IMMEDIATELY
12 AVAILABLE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS QUALIFIED TO SERVE AS A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR
13 AND CHOSEN THROUGH NOMINATION BY AND PLURALITY VOTE OF THE REMAINING
14 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, INCLUDING NOMINATION AND VOTE BY A SINGLE
15 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR IF ONLY ONE REMAINS;

16 (4) IF THERE IS A TIE BETWEEN AT LEAST TWO NOMINEES FOR
17 SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR IN A VOTE CONDUCTED UNDER ITEM (3) OF
18 THIS SUBSECTION, BY APPOINTING A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR CHOSEN BY LOT
19 FROM AMONG THOSE NOMINEES; OR

20 (5) IF ALL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR POSITIONS ARE VACANT AND
21 CANNOT BE FILLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEM (1), (2), (3), OR (4) OF THIS
22 SUBSECTION, BY APPOINTING A SINGLE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR, WITH REMAINING
23 VACANT POSITIONS TO BE FILLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEM (3) OR (4) OF THIS
24 SUBSECTION.

25 (D) TO QUALIFY AS A SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR UNDER
26 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS NOT EXECUTED THE
27 PLEDGE REQUIRED UNDER § 8-504 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL EXECUTE THE
28 FOLLOWING PLEDGE: "I AGREE TO SERVE AND TO MARK MY BALLOTS FOR
29 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT CONSISTENT WITH THE PLEDGE OF THE
30 INDIVIDUAL TO WHOSE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR POSITION I HAVE SUCCEEDED."

31 [8-505.] 8-508.

32 (a) (1) The individuals elected to the office of presidential elector shall meet in
33 the State House in the City of Annapolis on the day provided by the Constitution and laws
34 of the United States.

35 (2) The conduct of the meeting shall be consistent with the requirements
36 of federal law.

1 (b) (1) Before proceeding to perform the duties of their office, the presidential
2 electors who are present shall fill any vacancy in the office of **PRESIDENTIAL** elector **IN**
3 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 8-507 OF THIS SUBTITLE**, whether the vacancy is caused by
4 absence or other reason.

5 (2) An individual appointed to fill a vacancy is entitled to all rights and
6 privileges of the duly elected electors.

7 (c) (1) After taking the oath prescribed by Article I, § 9 of the Maryland
8 Constitution before the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Maryland or, in the Clerk's absence,
9 before one of the Clerk's deputies, the presidential electors shall cast their votes for:

10 (1) IF § 8-5A-01 OF THIS TITLE IS NOT IN EFFECT, THE
11 CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT WHO RECEIVED A PLURALITY
12 OF THE VOTES CAST IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND; OR

13 (2) IF § 8-5A-01 OF THIS TITLE IS IN EFFECT, the candidates for
14 President and Vice President who received a plurality of the votes cast in the national
15 popular vote total defined in § 8-5A-01 of this title.

16 (3) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL PROVIDE EACH
17 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR WITH A PRESIDENTIAL AND A VICE PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT.

18 (4) EACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SHALL MARK THE PRESIDENTIAL
19 ELECTOR'S PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL BALLOTS WITH THE
20 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S SIGNATURE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S
21 LEGIBLY PRINTED NAME.

22 (D) (1) (1) THIS PARAGRAPH APPLIES ONLY IF § 8-5A-01 OF THIS
23 TITLE IS NOT IN EFFECT.

24 (2) EACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SHALL PRESENT BOTH
25 COMPLETED BALLOTS TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR.

26 (3) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL EXAMINE THE
27 BALLOTS PRESENTED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH AND
28 ACCEPT AS CAST ALL BALLOTS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS WHOSE VOTES ARE
29 CONSISTENT WITH THEIR PLEDGES EXECUTED UNDER § 8-504 OR § 8-507(D) OF
30 THIS SUBTITLE.

31 (2) (1) THIS PARAGRAPH APPLIES ONLY IF § 8-5A-01 OF THIS
32 TITLE IS IN EFFECT.

1 (II) EACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SHALL PRESENT BOTH
2 COMPLETED BALLOTS TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR, WHO SHALL EXAMINE THE
3 BALLOTS AND ACCEPT AS CAST ALL BALLOTS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS WHOSE
4 VOTES ARE CONSISTENT WITH THEIR PLEDGES EXECUTED FOR THE CANDIDATES
5 FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT WHO ARE THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE
6 WINNERS AS DEFINED IN § 8-5A-01 OF THIS TITLE.

7 (3) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR MAY NOT ACCEPT EITHER A
8 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S PRESIDENTIAL OR VICE PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT IF THE
9 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR VOTED IN VIOLATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S
10 PLEDGE.

11 (E) A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR WHO REFUSES TO PRESENT A BALLOT,
12 PRESENTS AN UNMARKED BALLOT AND REFUSES TO SIGN THE CERTIFICATE OF
13 VOTE, OR PRESENTS A BALLOT MARKED IN VIOLATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
14 ELECTOR'S PLEDGE EXECUTED UNDER § 8-504 OR § 8-507(D) OF THIS SUBTITLE
15 VACATES THE OFFICE OF ELECTOR, CREATING A VACANT POSITION TO BE FILLED
16 UNDER § 8-507 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

17 (F) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL DISTRIBUTE BALLOTS AND
18 COLLECT BALLOTS FROM A SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR AND REPEAT THE
19 PROCESS UNDER THIS SECTION, DECLARING VACANT POSITIONS TO BE FILLED AS
20 REQUIRED UNDER § 8-507(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE, AND RECORDING APPROPRIATELY
21 COMPLETED BALLOTS FROM THE SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, UNTIL ALL
22 OF THE STATE'S ELECTORAL VOTES HAVE BEEN CAST AND RECORDED.

23 **8-509.**

24 (A) AFTER THE VOTE OF THE STATE'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS IS
25 COMPLETED, IF THE FINAL LIST OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS DIFFERS FROM ANY
26 LIST THAT THE GOVERNOR PREVIOUSLY INCLUDED ON A CERTIFICATE OF
27 ASCERTAINMENT PREPARED AND TRANSMITTED UNDER ~~3 U.S.C. § 6~~ 3 U.S.C. § 5,
28 THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR IMMEDIATELY SHALL PREPARE AN AMENDED
29 CERTIFICATE OF ASCERTAINMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH 3 U.S.C. § 4 AND
30 TRANSMIT IT TO THE GOVERNOR FOR THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE.

31 (B) THE GOVERNOR IMMEDIATELY SHALL DELIVER THE SIGNED AMENDED
32 CERTIFICATE OF ASCERTAINMENT TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR AND A SIGNED
33 DUPLICATE ORIGINAL OF THE AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF ASCERTAINMENT TO ALL
34 INDIVIDUALS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THIS STATE'S CERTIFICATE OF
35 ASCERTAINMENT, INDICATING THAT THE AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF
36 ASCERTAINMENT IS TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF
37 ASCERTAINMENT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED.

1 (C) (1) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL PREPARE A CERTIFICATE OF
2 THE VOTE.

3 (2) THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS ON THE FINAL LIST SHALL SIGN
4 THE CERTIFICATE.

5 (3) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL PROCESS AND TRANSMIT THE
6 SIGNED CERTIFICATE WITH THE AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF ASCERTAINMENT
7 UNDER 3 U.S.C. §§ 9 THROUGH 11.

8 **Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2007**

9 [SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act may not
10 take effect until the interstate compact entitled “Agreement Among the States to Elect the
11 President by National Popular Vote” is enacted in substantially the same form by states
12 cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes and the enactments of the compact
13 have taken effect in each state; that Section 1 of this Act shall only govern the appointment
14 of presidential electors in any year in which the Agreement Among the States to Elect the
15 President by National Popular Vote is, on July 20, in effect in states cumulatively
16 possessing a majority of the electoral votes; that all the states of the United States are
17 requested to concur in this Act of the General Assembly of Maryland by the enactment of a
18 similar Act; and that the Department of Legislative Services shall notify the appropriate
19 officials of the combined states of the enactment of this Act.]

20 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That[, except as provided in
21 Section 3 of this Act,] this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007.

22 **Chapter 44 of the Acts of 2007**

23 [SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act may not
24 take effect until the interstate compact entitled “Agreement Among the States to Elect the
25 President by National Popular Vote” is enacted in substantially the same form by states
26 cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes and the enactments of the compact
27 have taken effect in each state; that Section 1 of this Act shall only govern the appointment
28 of presidential electors in any year in which the Agreement Among the States to Elect the
29 President by National Popular Vote is, on July 20, in effect in states cumulatively
30 possessing a majority of the electoral votes; that all the states of the United States are
31 requested to concur in this Act of the General Assembly of Maryland by the enactment of a
32 similar Act; and that the Department of Legislative Services shall notify the appropriate
33 officials of the combined states of the enactment of this Act.]

34 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That[, except as provided in
35 Section 3 of this Act,] this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007.

1 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read~~
2 ~~as follows:~~

3 ~~Article — Election Law~~

4 ~~[§ 504.] § 505.~~

5 ~~(a) (1) At the general election for President and Vice President of the United~~
6 ~~States there shall be elected, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the number~~
7 ~~of presidential electors to which this State is entitled.~~

8 ~~(2) Presidential electors shall be elected at large by the voters of the entire~~
9 ~~State.~~

10 ~~(b) (1) The names of the candidates for the office of presidential elector may~~
11 ~~not be printed on the ballot.~~

12 ~~(2) A vote for the candidates for President and Vice President of a political~~
13 ~~party shall be considered to be and counted as a vote for each of the NOMINEES FOR~~
14 ~~presidential [electors] ELECTOR of the political party [nominated] SUBMITTED in~~
15 ~~accordance with § 8 503 of this subtitle.~~

16 ~~(3) A VOTE FOR AN UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT AND~~
17 ~~VICE PRESIDENT SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO BE AND COUNTED AS A VOTE FOR EACH~~
18 ~~OF THE NOMINEES FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SUBMITTED BY THE UNAFFILIATED~~
19 ~~PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TO THE STATE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 8 503 OF~~
20 ~~THIS SUBTITLE.~~

21 ~~[§ 505.] § 508.~~

22 ~~(a) (1) The individuals elected to the office of presidential elector shall meet in~~
23 ~~the State House in the City of Annapolis on the day provided by the Constitution and laws~~
24 ~~of the United States.~~

25 ~~(2) The conduct of the meeting shall be consistent with the requirements~~
26 ~~of federal law.~~

27 ~~(b) (1) Before proceeding to perform the duties of their office, the presidential~~
28 ~~electors who are present shall fill any vacancy in the office of PRESIDENTIAL elector IN~~
29 ~~ACCORDANCE WITH § 8 507 OF THIS SUBTITLE, whether the vacancy is caused by~~
30 ~~absence or other reason.~~

31 ~~(2) An individual appointed to fill a vacancy is entitled to all rights and~~
32 ~~privileges of the duly elected electors.~~

1 ~~(e) (1) After taking the oath prescribed by Article I, § 9 of the Maryland~~
2 ~~Constitution before the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Maryland or, in the Clerk's absence,~~
3 ~~before one of the Clerk's deputies, the presidential electors shall cast their votes for the~~
4 ~~candidates for President and Vice President who received a plurality of the votes cast in~~
5 ~~the State of Maryland.~~

6 ~~(2) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL PROVIDE EACH~~
7 ~~PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR WITH A PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT.~~

8 ~~(3) EACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SHALL MARK THE PRESIDENTIAL~~
9 ~~ELECTOR'S PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL BALLOTS WITH THE~~
10 ~~PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S SIGNATURE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S~~
11 ~~LEGIBLY PRINTED NAME.~~

12 ~~(D) (1) EACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SHALL PRESENT BOTH~~
13 ~~COMPLETED BALLOTS TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR.~~

14 ~~(2) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL EXAMINE THE BALLOTS~~
15 ~~PRESENTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND ACCEPT AS CAST ALL~~
16 ~~BALLOTS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS WHOSE VOTES ARE CONSISTENT WITH THEIR~~
17 ~~PLEDGES EXECUTED UNDER § 8-504 OR § 8-507(D) OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

18 ~~(3) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR MAY NOT COUNT EITHER A~~
19 ~~PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S PRESIDENTIAL OR VICE PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT IF THE~~
20 ~~PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR HAS NOT MARKED BOTH BALLOTS OR HAS MARKED A~~
21 ~~BALLOT IN VIOLATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S PLEDGE.~~

22 ~~(E) A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR WHO REFUSES TO PRESENT A BALLOT,~~
23 ~~PRESENTS AN UNMARKED BALLOT, OR PRESENTS A BALLOT MARKED IN VIOLATION~~
24 ~~OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S PLEDGE EXECUTED UNDER § 8-504 OR § 8-507(D)~~
25 ~~OF THIS SUBTITLE VACATES THE OFFICE OF ELECTOR, CREATING A VACANT~~
26 ~~POSITION TO BE FILLED UNDER § 8-507 OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

27 ~~(F) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL DISTRIBUTE BALLOTS AND~~
28 ~~COLLECT BALLOTS FROM A SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR AND REPEAT THE~~
29 ~~PROCESS UNDER THIS SECTION, DECLARING AND FILLING VACANT POSITIONS AS~~
30 ~~REQUIRED, AND RECORDING APPROPRIATELY COMPLETED BALLOTS FROM THE~~
31 ~~SUBSTITUTED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, UNTIL ALL OF THE STATE'S ELECTORAL~~
32 ~~VOTES HAVE BEEN CAST AND RECORDED.~~

33 ~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read~~
34 ~~as follows:~~

1 ~~§ 504.] § 505.~~

2 (a) (1) ~~At the general election for President and Vice President of the United~~
3 ~~States there shall be elected, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the number~~
4 ~~of presidential electors to which this State is entitled.~~

5 (2) ~~Presidential electors shall be elected under the procedure provided in §~~
6 ~~§ 5A-01 of this title.~~

7 (b) (1) ~~The names of the candidates for the office of presidential elector may~~
8 ~~not be printed on the ballot.~~

9 (2) ~~A vote for the candidates for President and Vice President of a political~~
10 ~~party shall be considered to be and counted as a vote for each of the NOMINEES FOR~~
11 ~~presidential [electors] ELECTOR of the political party [nominated] SUBMITTED in~~
12 ~~accordance with § 503 of this subtitle.~~

13 (3) ~~A VOTE FOR AN UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT AND~~
14 ~~VICE PRESIDENT SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO BE AND COUNTED AS A VOTE FOR EACH~~
15 ~~OF THE NOMINEES FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SUBMITTED BY THE UNAFFILIATED~~
16 ~~PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TO THE STATE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 503 OF~~
17 ~~THIS SUBTITLE.~~

18 ~~§ 505.] § 508.~~

19 (a) (1) ~~The individuals elected to the office of presidential elector shall meet in~~
20 ~~the State House in the City of Annapolis on the day provided by the Constitution and laws~~
21 ~~of the United States.~~

22 (2) ~~The conduct of the meeting shall be consistent with the requirements~~
23 ~~of federal law.~~

24 (b) (1) ~~Before proceeding to perform the duties of their office, the presidential~~
25 ~~electors who are present shall fill any vacancy in the office of PRESIDENTIAL elector IN~~
26 ~~ACCORDANCE WITH § 507 OF THIS SUBTITLE, whether the vacancy is caused by~~
27 ~~absence or other reason.~~

28 (2) ~~An individual appointed to fill a vacancy is entitled to all rights and~~
29 ~~privileges of the duly elected electors.~~

30 (e) (1) ~~After taking the oath prescribed by Article I, § 9 of the Maryland~~
31 ~~Constitution before the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Maryland or, in the Clerk's absence,~~
32 ~~before one of the Clerk's deputies, the presidential electors shall cast their votes for the~~
33 ~~candidates for President and Vice President who received a plurality of the votes cast in~~
34 ~~the national popular vote total defined in § 5A-01 of this title.~~

1 ~~(2) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL PROVIDE EACH~~
2 ~~PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR WITH A PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT.~~

3 ~~(3) EACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SHALL MARK THE PRESIDENTIAL~~
4 ~~ELECTOR'S PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL BALLOTS WITH THE~~
5 ~~PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S SIGNATURE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S~~
6 ~~LEGIBLY PRINTED NAME.~~

7 ~~(D) (1) EACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SHALL PRESENT BOTH~~
8 ~~COMPLETED BALLOTS TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR, WHO SHALL EXAMINE THE~~
9 ~~BALLOTS AND ACCEPT AS CAST ALL BALLOTS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS WHOSE~~
10 ~~VOTES ARE CONSISTENT WITH THEIR PLEDGES EXECUTED FOR THE CANDIDATES~~
11 ~~FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT WHO ARE THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE~~
12 ~~WINNERS AS DEFINED IN § 8-5A-01 OF THIS TITLE.~~

13 ~~(2) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR MAY NOT COUNT EITHER A~~
14 ~~PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S PRESIDENTIAL OR VICE PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT IF THE~~
15 ~~PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR HAS NOT MARKED BOTH BALLOTS OR HAS MARKED A~~
16 ~~BALLOT IN VIOLATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S PLEDGE.~~

17 ~~(E) A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR WHO REFUSES TO PRESENT A BALLOT,~~
18 ~~PRESENTS AN UNMARKED BALLOT, OR PRESENTS A BALLOT MARKED IN VIOLATION~~
19 ~~OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S PLEDGE EXECUTED UNDER § 8-504 OR § 8-507(D)~~
20 ~~OF THIS SUBTITLE VACATES THE OFFICE OF ELECTOR, CREATING A VACANT~~
21 ~~POSITION TO BE FILLED UNDER § 8-507 OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

22 ~~(F) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL DISTRIBUTE BALLOTS AND~~
23 ~~COLLECT BALLOTS FROM A SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR AND REPEAT THE~~
24 ~~PROCESS UNDER THIS SECTION, DECLARING AND FILLING VACANT POSITIONS AS~~
25 ~~REQUIRED, AND RECORDING APPROPRIATELY COMPLETED BALLOTS FROM THE~~
26 ~~SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, UNTIL ALL OF THIS STATE'S ELECTORAL~~
27 ~~VOTES HAVE BEEN CAST AND RECORDED.~~

28 ~~SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take~~
29 ~~effect October 1, 2026. It shall remain effective until the taking effect of Section 1 of~~
30 ~~Chapters 43 and 44 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007. If the contingency stated~~
31 ~~in Section 3 of Chapters 43 and 44 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007 takes effect,~~
32 ~~Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~

33 ~~SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 3 of this Act shall take~~
34 ~~effect on the taking effect of Section 1 of Chapters 43 and 44 of the Acts of the General~~
35 ~~Assembly of 2007.~~

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1 SECTION ~~6~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, ~~subject to the provisions~~
2 ~~of Sections 4 and 5 of this Act,~~ this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.