

HOUSE BILL 1265

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HB 1120/23 – W&M

6lr3425

By: **Delegates McComas, Baker, Beauchamp, Ciliberti, Hutchinson, and Miller**
Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026
Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Candidate Truthfulness – Oath**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a candidate to submit a certain oath or statement with the
4 candidate's certificate of candidacy relating to the candidate's truthfulness regarding
5 certain information while campaigning for office; subjecting a candidate who attests
6 to the oath to certain sanctions for a violation of the oath; and generally relating to
7 oaths of candidate truthfulness.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Election Law
10 Section 5–304(d)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Election Law
15 Section 5–306
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Election Law

20 5–304.

22 (d) The certificate of candidacy shall be accompanied by:

23 (1) a filing fee satisfying the requirements of § 5–401 of this title;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) a separate form, unless such a form has previously been filed,
2 establishing a campaign finance entity under Title 13 of this article;

3 (3) evidence that the individual has filed:

4 (i) a financial disclosure statement with the State Ethics
5 Commission in accordance with the requirements of Title 5, Subtitle 6 of the General
6 Provisions Article; or

7 (ii) any other financial disclosure report required by law; [and]

8 (4) THE SIGNED OATH OR STATEMENT REQUIRED UNDER § 5-306 OF
9 THIS SUBTITLE; AND

10 [(4)] (5) any additional information required by the State Board.

11 **5-306.**

12 A CANDIDATE SHALL SUBMIT WITH THE CANDIDATE'S CERTIFICATE OF
13 CANDIDACY:

14 (1) THE FOLLOWING OATH, SIGNED BY THE CANDIDATE:

15 "1. I, _____, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR OR AFFIRM, AS A CONDITION OF FILING
16 TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR AN ELECTED OFFICE IN MARYLAND, THAT ALL MATERIAL,
17 ORAL OR WRITTEN, I PROVIDE TO THE PUBLIC WILL BE FACTUALLY TRUTHFUL TO
18 THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF;

19 2. THAT I MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHARGES OF PERJURY, DISQUALIFICATION OF MY
20 CANDIDACY, OR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE IF I KNOWINGLY DISSEMINATE
21 DELIBERATELY FALSE INFORMATION, INCLUDING INFORMATION REGARDING:

22 (1) PAST OR PRESENT EMPLOYMENT;

23 (2) CRIMINAL OR CIVIL LEGAL HISTORY; AND

24 (3) FORMAL MEMBERSHIP OR AFFILIATION WITH A NONPROFIT OR
25 FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OR A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION.

26 3. THAT, AS A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE, I WILL PROMISE TO FAITHFULLY
27 AND IMPARTIALLY PERFORM ALL DUTIES INCUMBENT ON ME IN THE OFFICE I AM
28 SEEKING, UNDER THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THIS
29 STATE.

1 4. THIS OATH DOES NOT PROHIBIT A CANDIDATE FROM, IN THE NORMAL COURSE
2 OF CAMPAIGNING, EMBELLISHING OR EDITORIALIZING NONFACTUAL OPINIONS OR
3 INFORMATION, INCLUDING PERSONAL INFORMATION.

4 5. THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN OR ACCOMPANYING MY CERTIFICATE OF
5 CANDIDACY, INCLUDING THIS DOCUMENT, IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.

6 _____

7 (SIGNATURE) (DATE)”; OR

8 (2) IF THE CANDIDATE DECLINES TO SIGN THE OATH DESCRIBED
9 UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING OATH, SIGNED BY THE
10 CANDIDATE:

11 “1. I, _____, CHOOSE NOT TO SWEAR OR AFFIRM THAT I WILL BE TRUTHFUL
12 IN MY FACTUAL DISCLOSURES TO THE PUBLIC IN THE COURSE OF MY CANDIDACY
13 FOR THE OFFICE I AM SEEKING.

14 2. THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN OR ACCOMPANYING MY CERTIFICATE OF
15 CANDIDACY, INCLUDING THIS DOCUMENT, IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.

16 _____

17 (SIGNATURE) (DATE)”.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if any provision of this Act or
19 the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a
20 court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other
21 application of this Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application,
22 and for this purpose the provisions of this Act are declared severable.

23 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
24 1, 2026.