

HOUSE BILL 1289

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CF SB 800

By: **Delegate Terrasa**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Implementation of Approval Voting and Ranked–Choice**
3 **Voting**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Implementation of Approval Voting
5 and Ranked–Choice Voting; and generally relating to the Task Force on the
6 Implementation of Approval Voting and Ranked–Choice Voting.

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
8 That:

9 (a) There is a Task Force on the Implementation of Approval Voting and
10 Ranked–Choice Voting.

11 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

12 (1) one member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

13 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
14 House;

15 (3) the State Administrator of Elections, or the State Administrator’s
16 designee;

17 (4) one representative of a county government, designated by the Maryland
18 Association of Counties;

19 (5) one representative of a municipal government, designated by the
20 Maryland Municipal League; and

21 (6) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) one representative of a local board of elections;
- 2 (ii) one representative of an institution of higher education in the
3 State who has expertise in political science, public administration, or election systems;
- 4 (iii) one representative of a nonprofit organization with expertise in
5 election administration or voter engagement;
- 6 (iv) one representative of a civil rights organization or voting rights
7 organization; and
- 8 (v) one individual with expertise in election systems.
- 9 (c) The Task Force shall designate the chair of the Task Force from among its
10 members.
- 11 (d) The State Board of Elections shall provide staff for the Task Force.
- 12 (e) A member of the Task Force:
- 13 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 14 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
15 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 16 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 17 (1) review how approval voting and ranked-choice voting are used in other
18 states and local jurisdictions in the United States;
- 19 (2) evaluate potential administrative and fiscal impacts of approval voting
20 and ranked-choice voting on the State Board of Elections and local boards of elections,
21 including impacts related to ballot design, certification, tabulation, voting equipment, and
22 voter education;
- 23 (3) examine potential impacts of approval voting and ranked-choice voting
24 on voter participation, voter understanding, election outcomes, and representation;
- 25 (4) consider whether pilot programs or local option authority regarding of
26 approval voting and ranked-choice voting would be appropriate;
- 27 (5) analyze the constitutional and legal considerations associated with
28 implementing approval voting and ranked-choice voting;
- 29 (6) identify statutory or regulatory changes required to authorize or
30 implement approval voting and ranked-choice voting; and

1 (7) develop findings and recommendations for legislative or administrative
2 action.

3 (g) On or before December 1, 2027, the Task Force shall report its findings and
4 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
5 Government Article, the General Assembly.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 9 months and, at the
8 end of June 30, 2028, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
9 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.