

HOUSE BILL 1407

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6lr3156

By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Absentee Ballots – Notice of Timely Receipt**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Administrator of Elections to provide certain
4 additional notice to voters using certain methods if there is an occurrence of federal
5 judicial action regarding the timely receipt of certain absentee ballots that preempts
6 certain State law and regulations; and generally relating to a notice of timely receipt
7 for absentee ballots.

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

10 (a) If there is an occurrence of federal judicial action regarding the timely receipt
11 of absentee ballots with federal contests that preempts regulations adopted by the State
12 Board of Elections in COMAR 33.11.03.08, in accordance with § 11–302 of the Election Law
13 Article, that prescribe timely receipt of absentee ballots in the State, the State
14 Administrator of Elections shall provide additional notice to voters in the State of the
15 requirements:

16 (1) under federal law for timely receipt of absentee ballots with federal
17 contests; and

18 (2) under State law for the timely receipt of absentee ballots with State and
19 local contests.

20 (b) The notice required under subsection (a) of this section shall, at minimum,
21 encourage an early return of absentee ballots by urging voters to:

22 (1) mail the ballot at least 1 week before election day; or

23 (2) place the ballot in an official ballot drop box on or before election day.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) The State Administrator shall use multiple methods to provide the notice
2 required under this section, including written notice with instructions for sample ballots
3 and ballots, a social media campaign, and mass media communications.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
5 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of November 30,
6 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated
7 and of no further force and effect.