

SENATE BILL 567

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CF HB 462

By: **Senators Ready, Bailey, Carozza, Corderman, Folden, Gallion, Hershey, Jennings, Mautz, McKay, Salling, Simonaire, and West**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elections – In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring an election judge to establish a voter's identity by requiring
4 the voter to present certain proof of identity; requiring a voter to vote a provisional
5 ballot if the voter is unable to provide certain proof of identity; prohibiting a person
6 from knowingly and willfully voting or attempting to vote under a false form of
7 identification; and generally relating to requiring voters to present proof of identity
8 at a polling place.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Election Law
11 Section 10–310 and 16–201
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Election Law**

17 10–310.

18 (a) For each individual who seeks to vote, an election judge, in accordance with
19 instructions provided by the local board, shall:

20 (1) locate the individual's name in the election register and locate the
21 preprinted voting authority card and then [authorize the individual to vote a regular ballot]
22 **ESTABLISH THE VOTER'S IDENTITY AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS**
23 **SECTION; AND**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(ii) if the individual's name is not on the inactive list, refer the individual for provisional ballot voting under § 9-404 of this article[;].

11 (2) REQUIRING THE VOTER TO PRESENT:

(I) A VALID GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PHOTO IDENTIFICATION; OR

13 (II) 1. A VALID NON-GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PHOTO
14 IDENTIFICATION; AND

[(4)] (3) (i) except if a voter's personal information has been deemed confidential by the local board, verify the address of the voter's residence; or

20 (ii) conduct an alternative verification as established by the State
21 Board, if the voter's personal information has been deemed confidential by the local board;

22 [(5)] (4) if any changes to the voting authority card are indicated by a
23 voter, make the appropriate changes in information on the card or other appropriate form;
24 and

25 [6] (5) have the voter sign the voting authority card and either issue the
26 voter a ballot or send the voter to a machine to vote.

27 [(b)] (c) (1) [On] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS
28 SECTION, ON the completion of the procedures set forth in [subsection (a)] SUBSECTIONS
29 (A) AND (B) of this section, [a] THE ELECTION JUDGE SHALL AUTHORIZE THE
30 INDIVIDUAL TO VOTE A REGULAR BALLOT.

(2) A voter may vote A **REGULAR BALLOT** in accordance with the procedures appropriate to the voting system used in the polling place.

3 (D) THE ELECTION JUDGE SHALL REFER THE INDIVIDUAL FOR A
4 PROVISIONAL BALLOT UNDER § 9-404 OF THIS ARTICLE IF THE VOTER IS UNABLE TO
5 PROVIDE IDENTIFICATION AS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(2) OF THIS
6 SECTION.

7 [(c)] (E) (1) Before a voter enters a voting booth, at the request of the voter,
8 an election judge shall:

9 (i) instruct the voter about the operation of the voting system; and

10 (ii) allow the voter an opportunity to operate a model voting device,
11 if appropriate to the voting system in use.

19 (ii) A voter may take into the polling place any written or printed
20 material to assist the voter in marking or preparing the ballot.

24 (ii) A voter may not choose the voter's employer or agent of that
25 employer or an officer or agent of the voter's union to assist the voter in marking the ballot.

30 (5) An individual assisting a voter may not suggest in any way how the
31 voter should vote for a particular ticket, candidate, or position on a question.

32 (6) If a voter requires assistance under paragraph (4) or (5) of this
33 subsection, the election judge shall record, on a form prescribed by the State Board, the

1 name of the voter who required assistance and the name of the individual providing
2 assistance to the voter.

3 (7) Except as provided in paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection, an
4 individual over the age of 17 years may not accompany a voter into a voting booth.

5 16–201.

6 (a) In this section, “influence” includes the use of pressure, deception, trickery, or
7 direct or indirect authority to induce action or to change the decision or act of another,
8 regardless of the medium used.

9 (b) A person may not willfully and knowingly:

10 (1) (i) impersonate another person in order to vote or attempt to vote;
11 [or]

12 (ii) vote or attempt to vote under a false name; **OR**

13 **(III) VOTE OR ATTEMPT TO VOTE UNDER A FALSE FORM OF**
14 **IDENTIFICATION;**

15 (2) vote more than once for a candidate for the same office or for the same
16 ballot question;

17 (3) vote or attempt to vote more than once in the same election, or vote in
18 more than one election district or precinct;

19 (4) vote in an election district or precinct without the legal authority to vote
20 in that election district or precinct;

21 (5) influence or attempt to influence a voter’s voting decision through the
22 use of force, threat, menace, intimidation, bribery, reward, or offer of reward;

23 (6) influence or attempt to influence a voter’s decision, through the use of
24 force, fraud, threat, menace, intimidation, bribery, reward, or offer of reward, whether to:

25 (i) go to the polls to cast a vote; or

26 (ii) vote by other lawful means; or

27 (7) engage in conduct that results or has the intent to result in the denial
28 or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race,
29 color, or disability.

4 (d) A person who violates this section is subject to § 5-106(b) of the Courts Article.

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