

SENATE BILL 845

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CF 6lr3350

By: Senator Carozza

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Voter Registration List Accuracy and Integrity Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring an election director of a local board of elections to immediately
4 remove a registered voter from the statewide voter registration list when the local
5 board receives a certain report that the registered voter is deceased; requiring the
6 election director to take certain action if the election director receives information
7 that a voter removed from the statewide voter registration list is not in fact deceased;
8 requiring and authorizing the State Board of Elections to take certain actions if a
9 local board is not in compliance with certain procedures for the removal from the
10 statewide voter registration list of registered voters who are reported deceased; and
11 generally relating to removing deceased individuals from the statewide voter
12 registration list.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Election Law
15 Section 3–504
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:

20 **Article – Election Law**

21 3–504.

22 (a) (1) (i) Information from the agencies specified in this paragraph shall
23 be reported to the State Administrator in a format and at times prescribed by the State
24 Board.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



27 (3) Registration cancellation information provided by an applicant on any
28 voter registration application shall be provided to the appropriate local board by the State
29 Administrator or another local board.

30 (4) A local board may:

31 (i) make arrangements to receive change of address information
32 from an entity approved by the State Board; and

33 (ii) pay a reasonable fee to the entity for the information.

34 (c) (1) (i) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, whenever
35 a local board becomes aware of an obituary or any other reliable report of the death of a

1 registered voter, the election director shall mail a notice to the registered voter, as
2 prescribed by the State Board, to verify whether the voter is in fact deceased.

3 (ii) On receipt of a verification of the death of a voter, provided in
4 accordance with the notice mailed under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the election
5 director may remove the voter from the statewide voter registration list under § 3-501 of
6 this subtitle.

7 (2) (i) Whenever a local board receives a report obtained by the State
8 Administrator under subsection [(a)(3)] **(A)(1)(II) OR (3)** of this section [that includes a
9 registered voter] **OR FROM THE OFFICIAL VITAL STATISTICS AGENCY OF ANOTHER**
10 **STATE OR TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE DEATH OF A REGISTERED**
11 **VOTER**, the election director shall [mail to the address shown on the statewide voter
12 registration list, by regular U.S. mail, a notice that:

13 1. states that the registered voter has been reported by the
14 Social Security Administration to have died; and

15 2. notifies the registered voter or a person attending the
16 affairs of a deceased voter that the voter will be removed from the statewide voter
17 registration list unless, within 2 weeks after the date of the letter, the registered voter or a
18 representative:

19 A. objects to the removal; and

20 B. shows cause why the removal should not proceed.

21 (ii) If the registered voter or a representative timely objects and
22 shows cause why the removal should not proceed, the election director may:

23 1. terminate the removal process and retain the registered
24 voter on the statewide voter registration list; or

25 2. refer the matter to the local board for a hearing to
26 determine the registered voter's status.

27 (iii) If the registered voter or a representative fails to timely object
28 and show cause why the removal should not proceed, the registration shall be canceled and
29 the registered voter removed from the statewide voter registration list] **IMMEDIATELY**
30 **REMOVE THE REGISTERED VOTER FROM THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION**
31 **LIST.**

32 (II) **IF THE ELECTION DIRECTOR RECEIVES INFORMATION THAT**
33 **A VOTER REMOVED FROM THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST UNDER**
34 **SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IS NOT IN FACT DECEASED, THE ELECTION**
35 **DIRECTOR SHALL:**

1 1. RESTORE THE VOTER TO THE STATEWIDE VOTER
2 REGISTRATION LIST; OR

3 2. REFER THE MATTER TO THE LOCAL BOARD FOR A
4 HEARING TO DETERMINE THE INDIVIDUAL'S VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS.

5 (III) IF THE STATE BOARD DETERMINES THAT A LOCAL BOARD
6 IS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE STATE
7 BOARD SHALL:

8 1. ISSUE WRITTEN FINDINGS OF NONCOMPLIANCE;

9 2. REQUIRE THE LOCAL BOARD TO DEVELOP A
10 CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN WITH DEADLINES FOR COMPLIANCE; AND

11 3. MONITOR THE LOCAL BOARD'S IMPLEMENTATION OF
12 THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN UNTIL THE LOCAL BOARD IS IN COMPLIANCE.

13 (IV) IF A LOCAL BOARD FAILS TO SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLY WITH
14 SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH FOR A PERIOD OF MORE THAN 2 MONTHS,
15 THE STATE BOARD MAY:

16 1. WITHHOLD DISCRETIONARY ELECTION
17 ADMINISTRATION FUNDS UNTIL THE LOCAL BOARD IS IN COMPLIANCE;

18 2. REQUIRE MANDATORY RETRAINING OF LOCAL BOARD
19 STAFF; AND

20 3. REFER A LOCAL BOARD THAT IS PERSISTENTLY
21 NONCOMPLIANT TO THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
23 1, 2026.