### Senate Bill 0747 as amended by SB0747/753621/1 (03/01/21 at 12:52 p.m.)

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### **UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE BILL 747**

SENATE BILL 747

G1 1lr1133 CF 1lr2322

By: Senator Kagan

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

### A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

# 2 <u>Elections - Administration and State Board of Elections - Membership, Contract Management, Ballot Drop</u>

3 Boxes, and Voting System Financing Revisions

4	FOR the purpose of altering the membership of the State Board of Elections; requiring
5	certain members of the State Board to have expertise or experience in certain areas;
6	providing for a nonvoting, ex officio member of the State Board; requiring the Governor to consider
	certain experience in appointing certain members of the State Board; altering the duties
7	of the State Board to include reviewing and voting on certain contracts and ensuring
8	the cost effectiveness of the use of certain funds; requiring the State Administrator
9	of Elections to report each proposed contract, contract renewal, and change order to
10	the State Board; providing for the content of a certain report; authorizing <u>, if the contract has a certain value</u> , the State
11	Administrator to finalize a contract, contract renewal, or change order only under
12	certain circumstances; requiring that a certain report of the State Board to the Board
13	of Public Works include certain information and prohibiting the report from
14	itemizing funding in a certain manner; requiring the State to pay the costs of <del>certain</del>
15	items relating to the uniform statewide voting system conducting an election in the State and
	acquiring certain electoral systems, materials, and technical support; requiring the counties to
16	reimburse the State Board for a certain amount of the State's costs of certain items
17	relating to the uniform statewide voting system , printing of absentee ballots and envelopes, and
	<u>ballot drop boxes</u> ; providing for the calculation of a
18	county's share of a certain cost; providing for the construction of certain provisions
19	of this Act; requiring local boards of elections to update the statewide voter registration list at
	least a certain number of times a year and use certain data in updating the list; requiring a certain
	team to collect absentee ballots collected in a ballot
20	drop box; prohibiting certain persons from collecting absentee ballots in a certain
21	container; repealing certain provisions of law exempting certain counties from
22	paying certain costs for the uniform statewide voting system under certain
23	circumstances; repealing a certain provision of law that distributes certain federal
24	funds received for certain improvements in voting systems and equipment; repealing
25	a certain provision of law rendered obsolete by a certain provision of this Act;
26	providing for the termination of the terms and the appointment of members of the
27	State Board; declaring the intent of the General Assembly that members of the State
28	Board be appointed in a certain priority order if a vacancy on the State Board occurs;
29	defining a certain term; making conforming changes; and generally relating to the
30	administration of elections and the State Board of Elections.

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required by Article I, § 9 of the Maryland Constitution.

1	(HI) ONE SHALL HAVE EXPERTISE IN PROCUREMENT;
2	(IV) ONE SHALL HAVE EXPERTISE IN CYBERSECURITY;
3	(V) ONE SHALL HAVE EXPERIENCE ADVOCATING FOR
4	INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES;
5	(VI) ONE SHALL HAVE EXPERIENCE IN ADVANCING DIVERSITY
6	AND INCLUSION IN ORGANIZATIONS; AND
7	(VII) (III) ONE FIVE SHALL BE A MEMBER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.
8 9	(3) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS SHALL BE A NONVOTING, EX OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD.
10 11	(b) The State Board shall maintain its principal office in Annapolis and have staff, subject to the State Personnel and Pensions Article, as provided in the State budget.
12	(c) (1) Each <b>VOTING</b> member of the State Board shall:
13 14 15	(i) subject to subsection (g)(2) of this section, be appointed by the Governor in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection, with the advice and consent of the Senate of Maryland;
16 17	(ii) be a registered voter in the State for the 5 years immediately preceding the appointment;
18 19	(iii) subject to subsection (f)(3) of this section, be eligible for reappointment;
20 21	(iv) conform to the restrictions specified under $\S$ 2-301 of this title; and
22 23 24	(v) be subject to removal by the Governor for incompetence, misconduct, or other good cause, upon written charges filed by the Governor with the State Board and after having been afforded notice and ample opportunity to be heard.
25 26 27	(2) (I) Subject to subsection (e) of this section, the Governor shall appoint as a member of the State Board an individual whose name is submitted to the Governor by the State Central Committee of the principal political party entitled to the appointment.
	(II) IN APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC UNDER
	SUBSECTION (A)(2)(III) OF THIS SECTION, THE GOVERNOR SHALL CONSIDER WHETHER THE
	INDIVIDUALS HAVE EXPERTISE IN THE FIELDS OF PROCUREMENT, CYBERSECURITY, ADVANCING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN ORGANIZATIONS, AND ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS
	WITH DISABILITIES.

Before taking office, each appointee to the State Board shall take the oath

Each VOTING member of the State Board shall be a member of one of

#### **UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE BILL 747** the principal political parties. 2 (2)A person may not be appointed to the State Board if the appointment 3 will result in the State Board having more than [three] FOUR or fewer than [two] THREE members of the same principal political party. 5 (f) (1) The term of a **VOTING** member is 4 years and begins on July 1. 6 (2)The terms of the **VOTING** members are staggered as required by the 7 terms provided for members of the State Board on [July 1, 1999] JUNE 1, 2021. 8 (3) A VOTING member may not serve more than three consecutive terms. 9 At the end of a term, a VOTING member continues to serve until a (4) successor is appointed and qualifies. 10 If a vacancy occurs on the State Board, it shall be filled for the 11 12 remainder of the unexpired term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies. 13 An appointment made while the Senate of Maryland is not in session (2)shall be considered temporary until the appointee is confirmed by the Senate. 15 Not later than August 1 each year, the State Board shall elect one of its 16 members as [chairman] CHAIR. 17 (i) Each member shall receive: 18 per diem compensation as provided in the State budget for each day 19 that the member is actually engaged in the discharge of official duties, as authorized by the State Board and in accordance with the State budget; and 21reimbursement for all necessary and proper expenses, as provided in 22the State budget. 23 2-102. 24 The State Board shall manage and supervise elections in the State and ensure 25 compliance with the requirements of this article and any applicable federal law by all persons involved in the elections process.

In exercising its authority under this article and in order to ensure compliance

direct, support, monitor, and evaluate the activities of each local board;

with this article and with any requirements of federal law, the State Board shall:

supervise the conduct of elections in the State;

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1	(3) have a staff sufficient to perform its functions;	
2 3	(4) REVIEW AND VOTE ON EACH CONTRACT WITH A VALUE OF \$50,000 OR MORE;	
4	[(4)] (5) adopt regulations to implement its powers and duties;	
5 6 7 8 9	[(5)] (6) receive, or in its discretion audit, campaign finance reports, account books and records kept under § 13-221 of this article, independent expenditure reports filed and records kept under § 13-306 of this article, electioneering communication reports filed and records kept under § 13-307 of this article, and statements filed and records kept under § 14-105 of this article;	
10 11	[(6)] (7) appoint a State Administrator in accordance with § 2-103 of this subtitle;	
12	[(7)] (8) maximize the use of <u>SECURE</u> technology in election	
13 14		
	(I) THE U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION;	
	(II) THE CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY; AND	
	(III) THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY;	
15	[(8)] (9) canvass and certify the results of elections as prescribed by law;	
16 17 18 19	[(9)] (10) make available to the general public, in a timely and efficient manner, information on the electoral process, including a publication that includes the text of this article, relevant portions of the Maryland Constitution, and information gathered and maintained regarding elections;	
20 21	(11) ENSURE THE COST-EFFECTIVE USE OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY RESOURCES IN ADMINISTERING ELECTIONS;	
22 23 24 25	[(10)] (12) subject to § 2-106 of this subtitle and § 13-341 of this article, receive, maintain, and serve as a depository for elections documents, materials, records, statistics, reports, certificates, proclamations, and other information prescribed by law or regulation;	
26	[(11)] (13) prescribe all forms required under this article; and	
27 28 29 30	[(12)] (14) serve as the official designated office in accordance with the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act for providing information regarding voter registration and absentee ballot procedures for absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters with respect to elections for federal office ; AND	
	(15) ENSURE THAT THE VOTING PROCESS DOES NOT JEOPARDIZE THE SECRECY OF VOTERS' BALLOTS.	

The powers and duties assigned to the State Board under this article shall be

32 exercised in accordance with an affirmative vote by a supermajority of the members of the

33 State Board.

1	(d) (1) The State Board shall make publicly available on its website:
2	(i) each open meeting agenda:
3	1. at least 48 hours in advance of each meeting; or
4 5 6	2. if the meeting is being held due to an emergency, a natural disaster, or any other unanticipated situation, as far in advance of the meeting as practicable;
7 8	(ii) meeting minutes from the portions of a meeting that were held in open session, not more than 2 business days after the minutes are approved; and
9 10	(iii) live video streaming of each portion of a meeting that is held in open session.
11	(2) The State Board shall maintain on its website:
12 13	(i) meeting minutes made available under paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection for a minimum of 5 years after the date of the meeting; and
14 15 16	(ii) a complete and unedited archived video recording of each open meeting for which live video streaming was made available under paragraph (1)(iii) of this subsection for a minimum of 1 year after the date of the meeting.
17 18 19	(3) The Department of Information Technology shall provide to the State Board the technical staff, support, and equipment necessary to stream live video of the open meetings of the State Board.
20	2-103.1.
21 22	(A) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL REPORT EACH PROPOSED CONTRACT, CONTRACT RENEWAL, AND CHANGE ORDER TO THE STATE BOARD.
$\frac{23}{24}$	(B) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE:
25 26	(1) THE PURPOSE OF THE CONTRACT, CONTRACT RENEWAL, OR CHANGE ORDER;
27 28	(2) HOW THE PROPOSED CONTRACT, CONTRACT RENEWAL, OR CHANGE ORDER WILL BE FUNDED;

30 TO THE PROPOSED CONTRACT, CONTRACT RENEWAL, OR CHANGE ORDER; AND

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**(3)** 

THE DISTRIBUTION OF ANY FEDERAL OR STATE FUNDS RELATING

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1	<b>(4)</b>	A LIST OF ANY SHARED COSTS WITH LOCAL BOARDS.	

- 2 (C) THE IF THE CONTRACT HAS A VALUE OF \$50,000 OR MORE, THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR MAY FINALIZE A CONTRACT, CONTRACT
- 3 RENEWAL, OR CHANGE ORDER ONLY AFTER AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF THE STATE
- 4 BOARD.
- 5 **2-110**.
- 6 A STATE BOARD REPORT TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS ON A PROPOSED
- 7 CONTRACT, CONTRACT RENEWAL, OR CHANGE ORDER:
- 8 (1) SHALL INCLUDE:
- 9 (I) THE PURPOSE OF THE CONTRACT, CONTRACT RENEWAL, OR
- 10 CHANGE ORDER;
- 11 (II) HOW THE PROPOSED CONTRACT, CONTRACT RENEWAL, OR
- 12 CHANGE ORDER WILL BE FUNDED;
- 13 (III) THE DISTRIBUTION OF ANY FEDERAL OR STATE FUNDS
- 14 RELATING TO THE PROPOSED CONTRACT, CONTRACT RENEWAL, OR CHANGE
- 15 ORDER; AND
- 16 (IV) A DESCRIPTION OF ANY SHARED COSTS WITH LOCAL
- 17 BOARDS; AND
- 18 (2) MAY NOT ITEMIZE FUNDING AS "SPECIAL FUNDS".
- 19 **2-111.**
- 20 (A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE SHALL PAY
- 21 THE COST OF:
- 22 (1) ACQUIRING AND OPERATING THE UNIFORM STATEWIDE VOTING
- 23 SYSTEM FOR VOTING IN POLLING PLACES AND, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED
- 24 FOR IN THIS ARTICLE, FOR ABSENTEE VOTING, INCLUDING:
- 25 (I) PRINTING OF BALLOTS AND ASSOCIATED MATERIALS
- 26 RELATING TO VOTING;
- 27 (II) MAINTENANCE OF THE VOTING SYSTEM; AND

8	UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE BILL 747
$\frac{1}{2}$	(III) TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND PROGRAMMING FOR THE VOTING SYSTEM; AND
3	(2) THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:
4	(I) STATEWIDE VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS;
5	(H) STATEWIDE DATABASE MANAGEMENT;
6	(III) MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION
7	DATABASE SERVICES; AND
8	(IV) SOFTWARE LICENSING FEES.
	(1) CONDUCTING AN ELECTION IN THE STATE; AND
	(2) ACQUIRING THE ELECTORAL SYSTEMS, MATERIALS, AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE CONDUCT OF AN ELECTION.
9 10	(B) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE COUNTIES SHALL REIMBURSE THE STATE BOARD FOR 50% OF THE STATE'S COST OF:
12	(1) ACQUIRING AND OPERATING THE UNIFORM STATEWIDE VOTING SYSTEM, INCLUDING ANY SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, OR MATERIALS MANDATED BY THE STATE BOARD TO BE USED BY LOCAL BOARDS FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE UNIFORM STATEWIDE VOTING SYSTEM;
	(2) PRINTING THE ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND ENVELOPES; AND
	(3) BALLOT DROP BOXES.
14 15 16 17	(C) A COUNTY'S SHARE OF THE COST REQUIRED TO BE REIMBURSED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE BASED ON THE COUNTY'S VOTING AGE POPULATION AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE BOARD ON A DATE SET IN REGULATION.
20	(D) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT THE STATE BOARD FROM FACILITATING THE PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, OR MATERIALS AT LOCAL EXPENSE THAT IS NOT MANDATED BY THE STATE BOARD OR IN A QUANTITY OR AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF THAT DETERMINED NECESSARY BY THE STATE BOARD, AT THE REQUEST OF A LOCAL BOARD.
	<u>3-101.</u>
	(D) SUBJECT TO SUBTITLE 5 OF THIS TITLE, EACH LOCAL BOARD SHALL:
	(1) UPDATE THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST AT LEAST FOUR TIMES PER YEAR; AND
	(2) IN UPDATING THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST, USE DATA:
	(I) PROVIDED BY FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES AND NATIONAL DATABASE SERVICES; AND
	(II) GATHERED THROUGH ANY OTHER METHODS OF COLLECTING ACCURATE VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION.

24	(4)	N THIS SECTION "DALLOT DOOD DOV" MEANS A CONTAINED DOOMDED
	` '	N THIS SECTION, DIEBOT DIVIT BOX METHON TO CONTINUE THOUSED
25	OR AUTHORI	ZED BY THE STATE BOARD OR A LOCAL BOARD TO COLLECT ABSENTEE
26	BALLOTS DU	RING AN ELECTION THAT MEETS THE SECURITY, MONITORING, BALLOT
27	REMOVAL, A	<del>vd other requirements established by the State Board.</del>
28	$(\mathbf{p})(\lambda)$	A TEAM OF INDIVIDUALS AUTHORIZED BY A LOCAL ROADD SHALL

- 28 (A) A TEAM OF INDIVIDUALS AUTHORIZED BY A LOCAL BOARD SHALL 29 COLLECT ABSENTEE BALLOTS COLLECTED IN A BALLOT DROP BOX.
- 30 (c) (b) An individual, an organization, an association, a political party, or any other person may not collect absentee ballots during an

9	UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE BILL 747
1	ELECTION IN A CONTAINER THAT IS:
2	(1) NOT A BALLOT DROP BOX; BUT
3 4	(2) IS LABELED, MARKED, OR OTHERWISE DESIGNATED TO APPEAR TO BE AN OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL BALLOT DROP BOX.
5	Chapter 564 of the Acts of 2001
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	[SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 5 of this Act, each county shall pay its share of one-half of the State's cost of acquiring and operating the uniform statewide voting systems for voting in polling places and for absentee voting provided for under this Act, including the cost of maintenance, storage, printing of ballots, technical support and programming, related supplies and materials, and software licensing fees. A county's share of the cost of acquiring and operating the uniform statewide voting systems shall be based upon the county's voting age population.]
13	[SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:
14 15 16 17 18 19	(a) A county that has purchased a voting system for voting at polling places within the last 10 years and before December 31, 2000 is not required to implement the uniform statewide voting system for voting at polling places provided for under this Act until July 1, 2006, and is not required to pay a share of the cost of acquiring and operating the uniform statewide voting system for voting at polling places until the system is implemented in the county; and
20 21 22 23 24	(b) A county that has purchased a voting system for absentee voting within the last 10 years and before December 31, 2000 is not required to implement the uniform statewide system for absentee voting provided for under this Act until July 1, 2006, and is not required to pay a share of the cost of acquiring and operating the uniform statewide system for absentee voting until the system is implemented in the county.]
25 26	[SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That fifty percent of any federal funds received for improvements in voting systems and equipment shall be distributed to
$     \begin{array}{r}       27 \\       28 \\       29     \end{array} $	the State and fifty percent of any federal funds received for improvements in voting systems and equipment shall be distributed, on the basis of a county's voting age population, to the counties that have implemented the uniform statewide voting system provided for under
30	this Act in the fiscal year in which the funds are received.]
31	SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

 $\overline{\text{The}}$   $\underline{\text{the}}$  terms of the members of the State Board of Elections serving on the

the term of the one member whose term is scheduled to expire on June

effective date of this Act shall terminate as follows:

35 30, 2021, shall terminate on June 30, 2021, and the one member with expertise in

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10 **UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE BILL 747** expertise in cybersecurity two members of the general public 1 appointed by the Governor in 2021 shall succeed the member whose term expires on June 30, 2021, and serve for a term of 4 years until a successor is appointed and qualifies; 3 the Governor shall appoint one member with experience advocating for 4 disabilities of the general public in 2022, and the member shall serve for a term of 4 years beginning July 1, 2022, until a successor is appointed and qualifies; 6 7 the terms of the three members whose terms are scheduled to expire on 8 June 30, 2023, shall terminate at the end of June 30, 2023, and the following members 9 appointed by the Governor in 2023 shall succeed the members whose terms expire on June 10 30, 2023, and serve for a term of 4 years until a successor is appointed and qualifies: 11 one member with experience in advancing diversity and (i) 12 of the general public; and 13 (ii) two members from counties of a specified population size; and the term of the one member whose term is scheduled to expire on June 14 (4) 30, 2024, shall terminate on June 30, 2024, and the one member from the general public 15 appointed by the Governor in 2024 shall succeed the member whose term expires on June 16 30, 2024, and serve for a term of 4 years until a successor is appointed and qualified. 17 18 19 ral Assembly that the members of the State Board of Elections be appointed in 20 the following priority order if a vacancy occurs: 21 (1)the member with expertise in procurement; 22

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June

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