

JUSTIN READY
Legislative District 5
Carroll County

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MINORITY WHIP

—
Finance Committee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 315
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3683 • 301-858-3683
800-492-7122 Ext. 3683
Justin.Ready@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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SB 544 Casting General Election Ballot in Multiple Locations - Prohibition

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Senate Bill 544 as amended will prohibit a person from willfully and knowingly casting a ballot in the general election more than one state. A person who violates the prohibition is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for up to five years.

Requested by the Carroll County Board of Elections, this legislation is based on a 2018 case where it was discovered that a Westminster, Maryland man, Jeffrey Hartman, had voted nine times in both Maryland and West Virginia beginning in 2006. Mr. Hartman was prosecuted in West Virginia and sentenced to 30 days in jail, one year of probation, and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs. Mr. Hartman should have also been charged in Maryland.

Senate Bill 544 will add voting in two states to the list of voting violations already listed in the Election Law Article. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 544.