

HOUSE BILL 1008

G1, M1

5lr1545

By: **Delegates Mautz, Adams, Beitzel, Buckel, Carey, Carozza, Fisher, Flanagan, Gutierrez, Hornberger, S. Howard, Jacobs, Kipke, Kittleman, Krebs, McDonough, Metzgar, Reilly, Rey, Shoemaker, Sophocleus, Vitale, and B. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2015

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Recreational Hunting and Fishing License Applications – Voter Registration**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Elections and the Department of Natural
4 Resources to jointly develop and implement procedures for persons who apply for the
5 issuance or renewal of a recreational hunting or fishing license online to be offered
6 the opportunity to register to vote through a link to Maryland's Online Voter
7 Registration System; prohibiting the Department of Natural Resources from being
8 deemed a voter registration agency for the purposes of providing, accepting, and
9 forwarding to the State Board voter registration applications; and generally relating
10 to the inclusion of voter registration in the application process for recreational
11 hunting and fishing licenses.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Election Law
14 Section 3–204(a)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
18 Article – Election Law
19 Section 3–204(b) through (e)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

22 BY adding to
23 Article – Natural Resources
24 Section 1–104(m)
25 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

Article – Election Law

3–204.

(a) (1) The State Board shall designate public agencies and nongovernmental agencies as voter registration agencies where qualified individuals may apply to register to vote.

(2) The State Board shall designate the following offices as voter registration agencies:

(i) all offices in the State that provide public assistance;

(ii) all offices in the State that provide State-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to individuals with disabilities; and

(iii) all public institutions of higher education in the State.

(3) The State Board and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly develop and implement procedures for persons to apply to register to vote at recruitment offices of the armed forces of the United States, which shall be deemed voter registration agencies.

(4) (I) THE STATE BOARD AND THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES SHALL JOINTLY DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROCEDURES FOR PERSONS WHO APPLY FOR THE ISSUANCE OR RENEWAL OF A RECREATIONAL HUNTING OR FISHING LICENSE ONLINE TO BE OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER TO VOTE THROUGH A LINK TO MARYLAND’S ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM.

(II) THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES MAY NOT BE DEEMED A VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCY.

(b) Except for a public institution of higher education in the State, which institution shall comply with the requirements of subsection (c) of this section, each voter registration agency, as provided in subsection (a)(2) and (3) of this section, shall:

(1) distribute a voter registration application approved by the State Board or the Federal Election Commission with each application for service or assistance it renders and with each recertification, renewal, or change of address form relating to such service or assistance;

1 (2) provide a document to prospective registrants that includes:

2 (i) the question, "If you are not registered to vote where you live
3 now, would you like to apply to register to vote here today?";

4 (ii) if the agency provides public assistance, the statement,
5 "Applying to register or declining to register to vote will not affect the amount of assistance
6 that you will be provided by this agency.";

7 (iii) boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant
8 would like to register or declines to register to vote together with the statement (in close
9 proximity to the boxes and in prominent type), "If you do not check either box, you will be
10 considered to have decided not to register to vote at this time.";

11 (iv) the statement, "If you would like help in filling out the voter
12 registration application form, we will help you. The decision whether to seek or accept help
13 is yours. You may fill out the application form in private.";

14 (v) the statement, "If you believe that someone has interfered with
15 your right to register or to decline to register to vote, your right to privacy in deciding
16 whether to register or in applying to register to vote, or your right to choose your own
17 political party or other political preference, you may file a complaint with the State Board
18 of Elections."; and

19 (vi) the address and toll free telephone number of the State Board;

20 (3) provide each applicant who does not decline to register to vote and who
21 accepts assistance the same degree of assistance with regard to completion of the
22 registration application as is provided by the office with regard to the completion of its own
23 applications, unless the applicant refuses such assistance; and

24 (4) accept the completed voter registration application for transmittal to
25 the appropriate election board.

26 (c) At the time that an individual enrolls, registers, or pays for course work
27 provided by a public institution of higher education in the State, the institution shall
28 provide the individual with an opportunity to request a voter registration application. If
29 the individual requests a voter registration application, the institution shall provide, or
30 cause to be provided, an application to the individual.

31 (d) An applicant may mail the voter registration application to the appropriate
32 State election official or return it to the voter registration agency for transmittal to the
33 appropriate election official.

34 (e) Within 5 days from the acceptance of a voter registration application, the voter
35 registration agency shall forward the application to the appropriate State election official.

1 **Article – Natural Resources**

2 1–104.

3 **(M) THE SECRETARY AND THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL**
4 **JOINTLY DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROCEDURES FOR PERSONS WHO APPLY FOR**
5 **THE ISSUANCE OR RENEWAL OF A RECREATIONAL HUNTING OR FISHING LICENSE**
6 **ONLINE TO BE OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER TO VOTE THROUGH A LINK**
7 **TO MARYLAND’S ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM.**

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2015.