

# HOUSE BILL 1353

G1, F3

4lr0709  
CF 4lr3230

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By: **Howard County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Howard County – Board of Education Elections – Ranked–Choice Voting**

3 **Ho. Co. 6–24**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Howard County Council to adopt, by law, a  
5 ranked–choice voting method for elections for the Howard County Board of  
6 Education; and generally relating to the use of ranked–choice voting for elections for  
7 the Howard County Board of Education.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Election Law  
10 Section 8–101 and 9–204  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Election Law**

16 8–101.

17 (a) Under the supervision of the State Board, and in accordance with regulations  
18 and procedures adopted by the State Board, a local board shall conduct all elections held  
19 under this article in the county in which the board is located.

20 (b) Except where it would be inappropriate, or as otherwise provided in this  
21 article, the electoral process for primary elections, general elections, and special elections  
22 shall be uniform.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(C) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “RANKED–CHOICE VOTING” MEANS A**  
2 **METHOD OF CASTING AND TABULATING VOTES IN WHICH VOTERS RANK**  
3 **CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE AND VOTES ARE TABULATED IN A MANNER**  
4 **THAT REFLECTS VOTER PREFERENCE.**

5           **(2) THE HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL MAY, BY LAW, ADOPT A**  
6 **RANKED–CHOICE VOTING SYSTEM FOR ELECTIONS FOR THE COUNTY BOARD OF**  
7 **EDUCATION.**

8           **(3) A LOCAL LAW ENACTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY PROVIDE**  
9 **FOR:**

10                   **(I) THE BALLOT FORMAT;**

11                   **(II) PROCEDURES FOR TABULATING VOTES; AND**

12                   **(III) ANY OTHER PROVISION NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT**  
13 **RANKED–CHOICE VOTING.**

14           **(4) A LOCAL LAW ENACTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL**  
15 **PROVIDE FOR AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN EXPLAINING HOW TO VOTE USING**  
16 **RANKED–CHOICE VOTING.**

17 9–204.

18           (a) Subject to the other provisions of this subtitle and to different presentations  
19 required or made desirable by different voting systems, all ballots used in an election shall  
20 be as uniform as possible.

21           (b) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this title, or unless a provision is  
22 clearly inappropriate to absentee ballots, the provisions of this subtitle relating to ballot  
23 content and arrangement shall apply to the arrangement of absentee ballots.

24           (c) If applicable for the voting system in use, the appropriate components of the  
25 voting system shall be configured for a primary election to permit the voter to vote only for  
26 the candidates for which the voter is entitled to vote.

27           **(D) THE HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL MAY, BY A LAW ADOPTED IN**  
28 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 8–101(C) OF THIS ARTICLE, PROVIDE FOR THE FORMAT OF**  
29 **BALLOTS TO BE USED IN AN ELECTION CONDUCTED BY RANKED–CHOICE VOTING.**

30           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
31 1, 2024.