

# SENATE BILL 271

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(PRE-FILED)

4lr0385  
CF HB 14

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By: **Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Departmental – State Board of Elections)**

Requested: September 15, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 13, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Revisions**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the information that clerks of the circuit court for each county  
4 and administrative clerks for each District Court are required to report to the State  
5 Administrator of Elections; altering the information that the State Administrator is  
6 required to make arrangements to obtain from the clerk of the United States District  
7 Court for the District of Maryland; requiring a public official responsible for the use  
8 of a public building requested by a local board of elections for an early voting center  
9 to make the building available to the local board in accordance with a certain  
10 provision of law; requiring each local board to establish an appeals process regarding  
11 certain requests to use public buildings as early voting centers; authorizing an  
12 incumbent member of a political party central committee who is a candidate for party  
13 office to act as any responsible officer, rather than only the treasurer, of that central  
14 committee; and generally relating to election law.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
16 Article – Election Law  
17 Section 3–504(a)(1)(i) and 13–215(b)(1)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
21 Article – Election Law

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Section 3–504(a)(1)(iii) and (2), 10–301.1(e), and 13–215(b)(2)(i)  
 2 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 3 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

6 **Article – Election Law**

7 3–504.

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

11 (iii) ~~The~~ **EACH MONTH, THE** clerk of the circuit court for each county  
 12 and the administrative clerk for each District Court shall report the names and addresses  
 13 of all individuals convicted, in the respective court, of a felony ~~AND CURRENTLY SERVING~~  
 14 ~~A COURT ORDERED SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT FOR THE CONVICTION~~ ~~since the~~  
 15 ~~date of the last report~~ **SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT WITH COMMITMENT PAPERS.**

16 (2) The State Administrator shall make arrangements with the clerk of the  
 17 United States District Court for the District of Maryland to receive reports of names and  
 18 addresses, if available, of individuals convicted of a felony in that court ~~AND CURRENTLY~~  
 19 ~~SERVING A COURT ORDERED SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT FOR THE CONVICTION~~  
 20 **SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT WITH COMMITMENT PAPERS.**

21 10–301.1.

22 (e) (1) Each early voting center shall satisfy the requirements of § 10–101 of  
 23 this title.

24 (2) ~~THE~~ **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**  
 25 **PUBLIC OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE USE OF A PUBLIC BUILDING REQUESTED**  
 26 **BY A LOCAL BOARD FOR AN EARLY VOTING CENTER SHALL MAKE THE PUBLIC**  
 27 **BUILDING AVAILABLE TO THE LOCAL BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 10–101(A)(3)**  
 28 **OF THIS TITLE.**

29 (3) (1) **EACH LOCAL BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH AN APPEALS**  
 30 **PROCESS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS**  
 31 **REQUESTED FOR USE UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO CONTEST THE**  
 32 **AVAILABILITY OF THE PUBLIC BUILDING DURING THE PERIOD OF TIME THE**  
 33 **BUILDING WOULD BE USED AS AN EARLY VOTING CENTER.**

1                    **(II) AN APPEALS PROCESS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS**  
2 **PARAGRAPH SHALL:**

3                    **1. REQUIRE A PUBLIC OFFICIAL TO FILE AN APPEAL**  
4 **WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE FROM THE LOCAL BOARD OF THE**  
5 **REQUEST TO MAKE THE PUBLIC BUILDING AVAILABLE AS AN EARLY VOTING**  
6 **CENTER;**

7                    **2. ALLOW THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL AN OPPORTUNITY TO**  
8 **BE HEARD PUBLICLY BEFORE THE LOCAL BOARD; AND**

9                    **3. CONCLUDE THE APPEALS PROCESS AT LEAST 8**  
10 **MONTHS BEFORE A LOCAL BOARD IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THE LOCATIONS OF ITS**  
11 **EARLY VOTING CENTERS TO THE STATE BOARD.**

12 13–215.

13            (b)    (1)    Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a candidate may not act:

14                    (i)    as the treasurer of a campaign finance entity of the candidate; or

15                    (ii)   with respect to any other campaign finance entity:

16                            1.    as the campaign manager or treasurer; or

17                            2.    in any other position that exercises general overall  
18 responsibility for the conduct of the entity.

19                    (2)    (i)    An incumbent member of a central committee who is a candidate  
20 for election to party office may act as [the treasurer] **A RESPONSIBLE OFFICER** of that  
21 central committee.

22            SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 January 1, 2025.