

HOUSE BILL 142

G1

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By: **Delegates Guyton, Bagnall, Boyce, Krimm, Lehman, R. Lewis, McIntosh, Palakovich Carr, Stewart, Terrasa, and K. Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2020

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2020

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Voting Order Priority – Individuals Who Need Extra Assistance**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a chief election judge to give voting order priority to certain
4 individuals; authorizing certain individuals to request voting order priority of any
5 election judge serving at a polling place or early voting center; ~~requiring the chief~~
6 ~~election judge to determine whether certain individuals qualify for voting order~~
7 ~~priority based on criteria established in regulations adopted by the State Board of~~
8 ~~Elections; requiring individuals who qualify for voting order priority to be brought~~
9 ~~to the front of certain lines and have a certain preference for using the ballot marking~~
10 ~~device or a voting booth~~; requiring the State Board to adopt certain regulations;
11 providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to voting order priority
12 for individuals with mobility problems or accompanied by ~~young children or~~ children
13 with a disability.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Election Law

16 Section 10–309.1

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Election Law**

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 **10-309.1.**

2 (A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A CHIEF ELECTION
3 JUDGE SHALL GIVE VOTING ORDER PRIORITY TO AN INDIVIDUAL:

4 (1) WHO HAS A MOBILITY PROBLEM THAT SUBSTANTIALLY IMPAIRS
5 THE INDIVIDUAL'S ABILITY TO MOVE AROUND OR STAND;

6 (2) WHO IS ASSISTING AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED UNDER ITEM (1) OF
7 THIS SUBSECTION; OR

8 ~~(3) WHO IS ACCOMPANIED BY A YOUNG CHILD; OR~~

9 ~~(4)~~ (3) WHO IS ACCOMPANIED BY A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.

10 (B) ~~(1)~~ AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS
11 SECTION MAY REQUEST VOTING ORDER PRIORITY OF ANY ELECTION JUDGE
12 SERVING AT THE POLLING PLACE OR EARLY VOTING CENTER.

13 ~~(2) THE CHIEF ELECTION JUDGE SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER AN
14 INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIES FOR VOTING ORDER PRIORITY BASED ON CRITERIA
15 ESTABLISHED IN REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD.~~

16 ~~(C) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO QUALIFIES FOR VOTING ORDER PRIORITY SHALL:~~

17 ~~(1) BE BROUGHT TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE FOR CHECK IN AND
18 BALLOT ISSUANCE;~~

19 ~~(2) HAVE FIRST PREFERENCE FOR USING THE BALLOT MARKING
20 DEVICE OR A VOTING BOOTH; AND~~

21 ~~(3) BE BROUGHT TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE FOR SCANNING A
22 COMPLETED BALLOT.~~

23 ~~(D)~~ (C) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT
24 THIS SECTION, INCLUDING:

25 (1) METHODS FOR PROVIDING NOTICE OF THE OPTION TO REQUEST
26 VOTING ORDER PRIORITY TO VOTERS BEFORE AN ELECTION ~~AND~~, AT EACH POLLING
27 PLACE ON ELECTION DAY, AND AT EACH EARLY VOTING CENTER DURING EARLY
28 VOTING; AND

29 (2) TRAINING GUIDELINES FOR ELECTION JUDGES; ~~AND~~

1 ~~(3) DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE THE USE AND~~
2 ~~EFFECTIVENESS OF VOTING ORDER PRIORITY FOR QUALIFYING INDIVIDUALS.~~

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 January 1, 2021.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.