

# SENATE BILL 591

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By: **Senators Bates, Cassilly, Eckardt, Edwards, Hershey, Jennings, Norman, and Serafini**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elections – Absentee Ballot Application – Required Information**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Elections approved absentee ballot  
4 application to require the applicant to provide certain identifying information; and  
5 generally relating to required information on an absentee ballot application.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

7 Article – Election Law

8 Section 9–305

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Election Law**

14 9–305.

15 (a) A voter may request an absentee ballot by completing and submitting:

16 (1) the State Board approved absentee ballot application;

17 (2) a form provided under federal law;

18 (3) a written request that includes:

19 (i) the voter's name, residence address, and signature; and

20 (ii) the address to which the ballot is to be mailed, if different from

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 the residence address; or

2 (4) as specified in subsection (c) of this section, the accessible online  
3 absentee ballot application provided by the State Board.

4 (b) An application for an absentee ballot must be received by a local board:

5 (1) if the voter requests the absentee ballot be sent by mail or facsimile  
6 transmission, not later than the Tuesday preceding the election, at the time specified in the  
7 guidelines;

8 (2) if the voter requests the absentee ballot be sent by the Internet, not  
9 later than the Friday preceding the election, at the time specified in the guidelines; or

10 (3) if the voter or the voter's duly authorized agent applies for an absentee  
11 ballot in person at the local board office, not later than the closing of the polls on election  
12 day.

13 (c) The online absentee ballot application provided by the State Board shall  
14 require the applicant to provide:

15 (1) a Maryland driver's license number or Maryland identification card  
16 number, the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number, and other  
17 information identified by the State Board that is not generally available to the public but  
18 is readily available to the applicant; or

19 (2) if the applicant is an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter  
20 as defined in the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and does  
21 not have a Maryland driver's license or Maryland identification card, a Social Security  
22 number.

23 **(D) THE STATE BOARD APPROVED ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION SHALL**  
24 **REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO PROVIDE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

25 **(1) THE LAST FOUR DIGITS OF THE APPLICANT'S SOCIAL SECURITY**  
26 **NUMBER;**

27 **(2) THE APPLICANT'S MARYLAND DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER; OR**

28 **(3) THE APPLICANT'S MARYLAND IDENTIFICATION CARD NUMBER.**

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
30 1, 2018.