

# HOUSE BILL 1228

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11r2895

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By: **Delegate Lisanti**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Ballot Drop Boxes – Prohibited Acts**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from removing, defacing, damaging, destroying,  
4 or preventing the correct operation of a ballot drop box; prohibiting a person from  
5 unlocking a ballot drop box except under certain circumstances; providing that a  
6 person who violates this Act is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to certain  
7 penalties; defining a certain term; and generally relating to ballot drop boxes.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Election Law

10 Section 16–805

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 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 **16–805.**

17 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “BALLOT DROP BOX” MEANS A SECURE, DURABLE,  
18 OUTDOOR CONTAINER THAT IS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED BY A LOCAL BOARD  
19 EXCLUSIVELY FOR VOTERS TO DEPOSIT COMPLETED ABSENTEE BALLOTS IN  
20 PERSON.

21 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT:

22 (1) REMOVE, DEFACE, DAMAGE, DESTROY, OR PREVENT THE  
23 CORRECT OPERATION OF A BALLOT DROP BOX; OR

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   **(2) EXCEPT FOR SERVICING BY AN AUTHORIZED PERSON, UNLOCK**  
2 **ANY LOCKED COMPARTMENT OF A BALLOT DROP BOX UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO**  
3 **SO BY THE ELECTION DIRECTOR.**

4                   **(C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND**  
5 **ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$10,000 OR**  
6 **IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 3 YEARS OR BOTH.**

7                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
8 October 1, 2021.