

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

A BILL ENTITLED

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; requiring the chief election judge to
6 determine whether certain individuals qualify for voting order priority based on
7 criteria established in regulations adopted by the State Board of Elections; requiring
8 individuals who qualify for voting order priority to be brought to the front of certain
9 lines and have a certain preference for using the ballot marking device or a voting
10 booth; requiring the State Board to adopt certain regulations; providing for a delayed
11 effective date; and generally relating to voting order priority for individuals with
12 mobility problems or accompanied by young children or children with a disability.

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Election Law
15 Section 10–309.1
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Election Law**

21 **10–309.1.**

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (2) WHO IS ASSISTING AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED UNDER ITEM (1) OF
4 THIS SUBSECTION;

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

6 (4) WHO IS ACCOMPANIED BY A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.

7 (B) (1) AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS
8 SECTION MAY REQUEST VOTING ORDER PRIORITY OF ANY ELECTION JUDGE
9 SERVING AT THE POLLING PLACE.

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

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

14 (1) BE BROUGHT TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE FOR CHECK-IN AND
15 BALLOT ISSUANCE;

16 (2) HAVE FIRST PREFERENCE FOR USING THE BALLOT MARKING
17 DEVICE OR A VOTING BOOTH; AND

18 (3) BE BROUGHT TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE FOR SCANNING A
19 COMPLETED BALLOT.

20 (D) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS
21 SECTION, INCLUDING:

22 (1) METHODS FOR PROVIDING NOTICE OF THE OPTION TO REQUEST
23 VOTING ORDER PRIORITY TO VOTERS BEFORE AN ELECTION AND AT EACH POLLING
24 PLACE ON ELECTION DAY;

25 (2) TRAINING GUIDELINES FOR ELECTION JUDGES; AND

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

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