

SENATE BILL 996

G1
SB 913/24 – EEE

5lr3487

By: **Senator McKay**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2025

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Approval Voting – Authorization for County Elections**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the governing body of a county to adopt, by law, an approval
4 voting method for elections for offices in the executive or legislative branches of
5 county government; and generally relating to the use of approval voting for elections
6 for county offices.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Election Law
9 Section 8–101
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Election Law**

15 8–101.

16 (a) Under the supervision of the State Board, and in accordance with regulations
17 and procedures adopted by the State Board, a local board shall conduct all elections held
18 under this article in the county in which the board is located.

19 (b) Except where it would be inappropriate, or as otherwise provided in this
20 article, the electoral process for primary elections, general elections, and special elections
21 shall be uniform.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(C) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “APPROVAL VOTING” MEANS A METHOD OF**
2 **CASTING AND TABULATING VOTES IN WHICH VOTERS MAY CHOOSE ANY NUMBER OF**
3 **CANDIDATES AND THE CANDIDATE CHOSEN MOST OFTEN IS ELECTED.**

4 **(2) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY MAY, BY LAW, ADOPT AN**
5 **APPROVAL VOTING METHOD FOR ELECTIONS FOR OFFICES IN THE EXECUTIVE OR**
6 **LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT.**

7 **(3) A LOCAL LAW ENACTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL**
8 **PROVIDE FOR AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN EXPLAINING HOW TO VOTE USING**
9 **APPROVAL VOTING.**

10 **(4) THE STATE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE**
11 **ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS CONDUCTED USING APPROVAL VOTING.**

12 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June**
13 **1, 2025.**