

HB0535/343422/1

BY: Ways and Means Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 535
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, after “**Ballots –**” insert “**Issuance,**”; in the same line, after “**Processing**” insert “**;**”; in line 3, after the first “of” insert “**requiring that a local board of elections send a ballot to certain voters who have made a request and qualify to vote by absentee ballot not later than a certain number of days before an election;**”; in line 5, strike “of elections”; in line 9, after “ballot” insert “**issuance,**”; in the same line, after “processing” insert a comma; after line 9, insert:

“BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Election Law

Section 9–306(b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)”;

and in line 12, after “Section” insert “9–306(c).”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, after line 1, insert:

“9–306.

(b) If the applicant qualifies to vote by absentee ballot, the local board shall provide the ballot by one of the following methods requested by the voter:

(1) mail;

(2) facsimile transmission;

(3) the Internet; or

(4) by hand during an in-person transaction.

(c) (1) [Once ballots are available, the] NOT LATER THAN 43 DAYS BEFORE AN ELECTION, THE LOCAL BOARD SHALL SEND A BALLOT TO EACH VOTER WHO QUALIFIES TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT AND HAS MADE A REQUEST AT LEAST 60 DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION TO RECEIVE THE BALLOT BY MAIL, FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION, OR THE INTERNET.

(2) A local board shall provide [the] A ballot to a [qualified applicant] VOTER WHO QUALIFIES TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT AND MAKES A REQUEST LESS THAN 60 DAYS BEFORE AN ELECTION:

[(1)] (I) as soon as practicable after receipt of the request; or

[(2)] (II) immediately for an in-person transaction with a voter or the voter's duly authorized agent."

On page 3, in line 25, strike "ADMINISTRATOR" and substitute "STATE ADMINISTRATOR"; in line 27, strike "DETERMINES" and substitute "SEEKS A DETERMINATION BY THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR"; in the same line, after "NOT" insert ":

1.";

in line 28, strike "BASED ON" and substitute "DUE TO"; in line 29, after "BOARD" insert "; OR

**2. PRACTICABLE DUE TO LIMITED RESOURCES OR
OTHER CONSTRAINTS ON THE LOCAL BOARD**;

after line 31, insert:

**“(3) A LOCAL BOARD MAY CONDUCT VOTE TALLYING WHEN
ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE PROCESSED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF THIS
SUBSECTION.”**;

in line 32, strike “(3)” and substitute “(4)”; in line 33, strike “TABULATE” and substitute
“CONDUCT”; and in the same line, strike “TOTALS” and substitute “TABULATION”.