

# SENATE BILL 145

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CF HB 37

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By: **Senator Hester**

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 12, 2020

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – References to Absentee Voting in Communications – Mail-In**  
3 **Voting**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Elections and each local board of elections  
5 to refer to absentee ballots as “mail-in ballots” and absentee voting as “mail-in  
6 voting” in all communications with voters and the general public; requiring the State  
7 Board and each local board to include in public communications regarding “mail-in  
8 voting” a statement that “mail-in voting” is referred to as absentee voting in the  
9 Maryland Constitution, the Annotated Code of Maryland, and the Code of Maryland  
10 Regulations; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to  
11 referring to absentee voting as “mail-in voting” in communications.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Election Law  
14 Section 9–301  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Election Law**

20 9–301.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



(a) This subtitle applies to every election governed by this article.

(b) The State Board shall prescribe all forms required to comply with:

(1) this subtitle; and

(2) any requirements of relevant federal law.

**(C) THE STATE BOARD AND EACH LOCAL BOARD SHALL:**

**(1) NOTWITHSTANDING THE USE OF THE TERM “ABSENTEE” IN THIS ARTICLE, REFER TO ABSENTEE BALLOTS AS “MAIL-IN BALLOTS” AND ABSENTEE VOTING AS “MAIL-IN VOTING” IN ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH VOTERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC; AND**

**(2) INCLUDE IN PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING “MAIL-IN VOTING” A STATEMENT THAT “MAIL-IN VOTING” IS REFERRED TO AS ABSENTEE VOTING IN THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION, THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, AND THE CODE OF MARYLAND REGULATIONS.**

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.