

# HOUSE BILL 51

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(PRE-FILED)

0lr0578  
CF SB 91

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By: **Delegate Bartlett**

Requested: August 28, 2019

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2020

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Individuals Released From Correctional Facilities – Voter**  
3 **Registration**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a correctional facility to provide an inmate who has completed  
5 a sentence of imprisonment for a felony conviction with a voter registration form  
6 before releasing the inmate; requiring a correctional facility to provide the inmate  
7 with certain information concerning the inmate's voting rights and voter registration  
8 requirements before releasing the inmate; defining certain terms; and generally  
9 relating to voter registration and individuals released from correctional facilities.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Election Law  
12 Section 3–102(b)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

15 BY adding to  
16 Article – Election Law  
17 Section 3–204.3  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Election Law**

23 3–102.

24 (b) An individual is not qualified to be a registered voter if the individual:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(1) has been convicted of a felony and is currently serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment for the conviction;

(2) is under guardianship for mental disability and a court of competent jurisdiction has specifically found by clear and convincing evidence that the individual cannot communicate, with or without accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process; or

(3) has been convicted of buying or selling votes.

**3-204.3.**

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "CORRECTIONAL FACILITY" MEANS A STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY OR A LOCAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.

(3) "LOCAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1-101 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.

(4) "STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1-101 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.

(B) BEFORE RELEASING AN INMATE WHO HAS COMPLETED A SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT FOR A FELONY CONVICTION, A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SHALL:

(1) PROVIDE THE INMATE WITH A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM; AND

(2) INFORM THE INMATE THAT:

(I) THE INMATE WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE AFTER THE INMATE'S RELEASE FROM THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; AND

(II) THE INMATE MUST REGISTER TO VOTE AFTER THE INMATE'S RELEASE FROM THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.