

HOUSE BILL 37

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(PRE-FILED)

0lr0727
CF 0lr0728

By: **Delegate Palakovich Carr**

Requested: September 20, 2019

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2020

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

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 Annotated Code of Maryland and the Code of Maryland Regulations; providing for a
10 delayed effective date; and generally relating to referring to absentee voting as
11 “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.

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

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

23 (1) this subtitle; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(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 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.