

# HOUSE BILL 1234

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By: **Delegate Frank**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2013

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election of Circuit Court Judges – Random Ordering of Names**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a local board of elections to conduct a random drawing of  
4 the names of the candidates for election for circuit court judge to determine the  
5 order of the names on the ballot; requiring the drawing to be conducted in the  
6 manner required by the State Board of Elections; and generally relating to the  
7 placement of names on the ballot of candidates for election as judge of the  
8 circuit court.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Election Law  
11 Section 9–210(j)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Election Law**

17 9–210.

18 (j) (1) In a primary election:

19 (i) on a voting machine ballot, the names of the candidates for  
20 party nomination shall be grouped together by party; and

21 (ii) on a document ballot, the ballot shall include only the names  
22 of candidates for which the voter is entitled to vote.

23 (2) In a general election:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) on a voting machine ballot, the names of the candidates of a  
2 political party shall be grouped together in adjacent rows or columns, and the majority  
3 party candidates shall be placed in the first row or column, followed by the candidates  
4 of the principal minority party, followed by other political parties in descending order  
5 based on the number of voters registered with the party, and finally by candidates not  
6 nominees of a political party; and

7 (ii) on a document ballot, for each office the names of candidates  
8 shall be grouped together by party, with the majority party candidate or candidates  
9 listed first, followed by the candidate or candidates of the principal minority party,  
10 followed by the candidate or candidates of other political parties in descending order  
11 based on the statewide registration of the party, and finally by candidates who are not  
12 nominees of a political party.

13 (3) (I) **[In] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF**  
14 **THIS PARAGRAPH, IN** both primary elections and general elections, when there is  
15 more than one candidate of the same political party for nomination or election to an  
16 office, the names of the candidates in the group shall be listed in alphabetical order by  
17 surname. In the primary election, candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor  
18 shall be arranged in the order of surnames of the gubernatorial candidates.

19 (II) **1. IN BOTH PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS, IN**  
20 **AN ELECTION FOR A JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, WHEN THERE IS MORE**  
21 **THAN ONE CANDIDATE OF THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY FOR NOMINATION OR**  
22 **ELECTION, A LOCAL BOARD SHALL CONDUCT A RANDOM DRAWING TO**  
23 **DETERMINE THE ORDER OF THE NAMES OF THE CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT.**

24 **2. THE DRAWING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN A**  
25 **MANNER REQUIRED BY THE STATE BOARD.**

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 October 1, 2013.