

HOUSE BILL 138

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2lr0988

By: **Carroll County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2012

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Carroll County – Polling Places – Electioneering Boundaries**

3 FOR the purpose of making Carroll County subject to the general rule for locating
4 the line beyond which electioneering is prohibited outside a polling place;
5 requiring that the line be as near as practicable to a certain distance from the
6 entrance and exit of the polling place; repealing an exception, applicable to
7 Carroll County, regarding the boundaries for electioneering outside a polling
8 place; and generally relating to electioneering at a polling place in Carroll
9 County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Election Law
12 Section 16–206
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Election Law**

18 16–206.

19 (a) A person may not:

20 (1) place any distinguishing mark on the person's own or another
21 person's ballot for the purpose of identifying the ballot;

22 (2) misrepresent the person's ability to mark a ballot or operate voting
23 equipment;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) interfere or attempt to interfere with a voter while the voter is
2 inside the polling room, marking a ballot, or operating voting equipment;

3 (4) induce or attempt to induce a voter to mark the voter's ballot in a
4 certain way;

5 (5) except for servicing by an authorized person, unlock any locked
6 compartment of a voting device unless instructed to do so by the election director;

7 (6) destroy or deface a ballot;

8 (7) remove a ballot from a building in which voting occurs, except as
9 otherwise provided in this article;

10 (8) delay the delivery of a ballot;

11 (9) possess on or before the day of election an official ballot printed for
12 the election, unless the possession of the ballot is necessary and appropriate for
13 carrying out the election process; or

14 (10) canvass, electioneer, or post any campaign material in the polling
15 place or beyond a line established by signs posted in accordance with subsection (b) of
16 this section.

17 (b) (1) At each polling place, one election judge from each principal
18 political party shall be designated by the local board and, acting jointly, shall post
19 signs delineating a line around the entrance and exit of the building that are closest to
20 that part of the building in which voting occurs.

21 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph,
22 the line shall be located as near as practicable to 100 feet from the entrance and exit
23 and shall be established after consideration of the configuration of the entrance and
24 the effect of placement on public safety and the flow of pedestrian and vehicular
25 traffic.

26 (ii) In [Carroll County and] Montgomery County, on approval of
27 the local board, the line may be located at any point between 25 feet and 100 feet from
28 the entrance and exit.

29 (3) The signs shall contain the words "No Electioneering Beyond this
30 Point".

31 (c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and is
32 subject to a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more
33 than 60 days or both.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2012.