

HOUSE BILL 14

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(PRE-FILED)

4lr0386
CF SB 271

By: **Chair, Ways and Means Committee (By Request – Departmental – State Board of Elections)**

Requested: September 15, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 28, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Revisions**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the information that clerks of the circuit court for each county
4 and administrative clerks for each District Court are required to report to the State
5 Administrator of Elections; altering the information that the State Administrator is
6 required to make arrangements to obtain from the clerk of the United States District
7 Court for the District of Maryland; requiring a public official responsible for the use
8 of a public building requested by a local board of elections for an early voting center
9 to make the building available to the local board in accordance with a certain
10 provision of law; requiring each local board to establish an appeals process regarding
11 certain requests to use public buildings as early voting centers; authorizing an
12 incumbent member of a political party central committee who is a candidate for party
13 office to act as any responsible officer, rather than only the treasurer, of that central
14 committee; and generally relating to election law.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
16 Article – Election Law
17 Section 3–504(a)(1)(i) and 13–215(b)(1)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
21 Article – Election Law

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.



1 Section 3–504(a)(1)(iii) and (2), 10–301.1(e), and 13–215(b)(2)(i)
 2 Annotated Code of Maryland
 3 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

6 **Article – Election Law**

7 3–504.

8 (a) (1) (i) Information from the agencies specified in this paragraph shall
 9 be reported to the State Administrator in a format and at times prescribed by the State
 10 Board.

11 (iii) ~~The~~ **EACH MONTH, THE** clerk of the circuit court for each county
 12 and the administrative clerk for each District Court shall report the names and addresses
 13 of all individuals convicted, in the respective court, of a felony ~~AND CURRENTLY SERVING~~
 14 ~~A COURT ORDERED SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT FOR THE CONVICTION~~ ~~since the~~
 15 ~~date of the last report~~ **SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT WITH COMMITMENT PAPERS.**

16 (2) The State Administrator shall make arrangements with the clerk of the
 17 United States District Court for the District of Maryland to receive reports of names and
 18 addresses, if available, of individuals convicted of a felony in that court ~~AND CURRENTLY~~
 19 ~~SERVING A COURT ORDERED SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT FOR THE CONVICTION~~
 20 **SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT WITH COMMITMENT PAPERS.**

21 10–301.1.

22 (e) (1) Each early voting center shall satisfy the requirements of § 10–101 of
 23 this title.

24 (2) ~~THE~~ **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**
 25 **PUBLIC OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE USE OF A PUBLIC BUILDING REQUESTED**
 26 **BY A LOCAL BOARD FOR AN EARLY VOTING CENTER SHALL MAKE THE PUBLIC**
 27 **BUILDING AVAILABLE TO THE LOCAL BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 10–101(A)(3)**
 28 **OF THIS TITLE.**

29 (3) (1) **THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT**
 30 **ESTABLISH AN APPEALS PROCESS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR**
 31 **PUBLIC BUILDINGS REQUESTED FOR USE UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
 32 **SUBSECTION TO CONTEST THE AVAILABILITY OF THE PUBLIC BUILDING DURING THE**
 33 **PERIOD OF TIME THE BUILDING WOULD BE USED AS AN EARLY VOTING CENTER.**

1 **(II) THE APPEALS PROCESS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS**
2 **PARAGRAPH SHALL:**

3 **1. REQUIRE A PUBLIC OFFICIAL TO FILE AN APPEAL**
4 **WITH THE LOCAL BOARD WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE FROM THE**
5 **LOCAL BOARD OF THE REQUEST TO MAKE THE PUBLIC BUILDING AVAILABLE AS AN**
6 **EARLY VOTING CENTER;**

7 **2. ALLOW THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL AN OPPORTUNITY TO**
8 **BE HEARD PUBLICLY AT A MEETING OF THE LOCAL BOARD BEFORE THE LOCAL**
9 **BOARD MAKES A DECISION ON THE APPEAL;**

10 **3. ALLOW THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL TO APPEAL AN**
11 **ADVERSE DECISION BY THE LOCAL BOARD TO THE STATE BOARD WITHIN 7 DAYS**
12 **AFTER THE LOCAL BOARD'S DECISION;**

13 **4. ALLOW THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL AN OPPORTUNITY TO**
14 **BE HEARD PUBLICLY AT A MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD BEFORE THE STATE**
15 **BOARD MAKES A FINAL DECISION ON THE APPEAL; AND**

16 **5. CONCLUDE THE APPEALS PROCESS AT LEAST 7**
17 **MONTHS BEFORE THE PRIMARY ELECTION FOR WHICH THE LOCAL BOARD SEEKS TO**
18 **USE THE PUBLIC BUILDING AS AN EARLY VOTING CENTER.**

19 13-215.

20 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a candidate may not act:

21 (i) as the treasurer of a campaign finance entity of the candidate; or

22 (ii) with respect to any other campaign finance entity:

23 1. as the campaign manager or treasurer; or

24 2. in any other position that exercises general overall
25 responsibility for the conduct of the entity.

26 (2) (i) An incumbent member of a central committee who is a candidate
27 for election to party office may act as [the treasurer] **A RESPONSIBLE OFFICER** of that
28 central committee.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 January 1, 2025.