

HOUSE BILL 164

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HB 943/23 – W&M

EMERGENCY BILL
(PRE-FILED)

4lr1253

By: **Delegate R. Long**

Requested: October 30, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Voter Registration List – Absentee Voters**
3 **(Absentee Ballot Transparency Act of 2024)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Elections or a local board of elections, on
5 request of a candidate, to provide the candidate with a list of registered voters who
6 have requested an absentee ballot for an upcoming election; requiring that the list
7 of absentee voters provided include certain contact information for each voter; and
8 generally relating to lists of absentee voters.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Election Law
11 Section 3–506(a)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Election Law**

17 3–506.

18 (a) (1) A copy of a list of registered voters shall be provided to a Maryland
19 registered voter on receipt of:

20 (i) a written application; and

21 (ii) a statement, signed under oath, that the list is not intended to be
22 used for:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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- 1 1. commercial solicitation; or
- 2 2. any other purpose not related to the electoral process.

3 (2) In consultation with the local boards, the State Board shall adopt
4 regulations that specify:

- 5 (i) the time for a list to be provided under this subsection;
- 6 (ii) the authorization to be required for providing a list;
- 7 (iii) the fee to be paid for providing a list;
- 8 (iv) the information to be included on a list;
- 9 (v) that the residence address of an individual who is a participant
10 in an address confidentiality program may not be disclosed;
- 11 (vi) that a participant in an address confidentiality program is not
12 required to apply to the State Board to keep the individual's residence address confidential;
- 13 (vii) the format of the information; and
- 14 (viii) the medium or media on which the information is to be provided.

15 **(3) (I) IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
16 **SUBSECTION AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
17 **SUBSECTION, ON REQUEST OF A CANDIDATE, THE STATE BOARD OR A LOCAL BOARD**
18 **SHALL PROVIDE THE CANDIDATE WITH A LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS WHO HAVE**
19 **REQUESTED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR AN UPCOMING ELECTION.**

20 **(II) A LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS PROVIDED TO A CANDIDATE**
21 **UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL INCLUDE THE E-MAIL**
22 **ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF EACH VOTER ON THE LIST, IF THE**
23 **INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
25 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
26 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
27 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
28 enacted.