

HOUSE BILL 619

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HB 895/21 – W&M

2lr1481

By: **Delegates Mangione, Boteler, Buckel, Chisholm, Hornberger, Krebs, Morgan, Reilly, Rose, Shoemaker, Szeliga, and Thiam**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Polling Places at Continuing Care Retirement Communities**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring local boards of elections to establish separate precincts at
4 certain continuing care retirement communities if requested; requiring the
5 continuing care retirement communities to provide to the local boards facilities that
6 meet certain requirements to be used as polling places and assistance in recruiting
7 election judges from among the residents of the communities; and generally relating
8 to the establishment of precincts and polling places at continuing care retirement
9 communities.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Election Law
12 Section 2–303(a)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Election Law

18 2–303.

19 (a) (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) [and], (3), AND (4) of this subsection, as it
20 deems it expedient for the convenience of voters, a local board may:

21 (i) create and alter the boundaries for precincts in the county;

22 (ii) designate the location for polling places in any election district,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 ward, or precinct in the county; and

2 (iii) combine or abolish precincts.

3 (2) (i) Except as provided under subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, a
4 local board shall establish a separate precinct on campus or within one-half mile of the
5 campus to specifically serve a public or private institution of higher education if the local
6 board determines that at least 500 students, faculty, and staff who attend or work at the
7 institution are registered voters in the precinct in which the institution is located.

8 (ii) If, in accordance with subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, a
9 polling place is established at an institution of higher education that receives State funds,
10 that institution shall:

11 1. provide without charge to the local board a facility for use
12 as a polling place that meets all applicable requirements under this article and as
13 established by the State Board; and

14 2. provide assistance to the local board in recruiting election
15 judges to staff the polling place.

16 (iii) A local board may not be required to establish a separate precinct
17 as provided under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph if there is an established precinct
18 within one-half mile of the public or private institution of higher education's campus that
19 serves the voters who attend or work at the public or private institution of higher education.

20 (3) **[When] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION, WHEN**
21 a local board is establishing precinct boundaries and designating the location of polling
22 places, the local board shall contact and obtain input from large residential institutional
23 communities including institutions of higher education, continuing care retirement
24 communities, senior communities, and military installations.

25 **(4) (I) IN THIS PARAGRAPH, "CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT**
26 **COMMUNITY" MEANS A FACILITY IN WHICH A PROVIDER THAT HOLDS A CERTIFICATE**
27 **OF REGISTRATION UNDER § 10-412 OR § 10-413 OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ARTICLE**
28 **PROVIDES CARE TO AT LEAST 200 INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE AT LEAST 60 YEARS OLD**
29 **AND NOT RELATED BY BLOOD OR MARRIAGE TO THE PROVIDER.**

30 **(II) A LOCAL BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH A SEPARATE PRECINCT**
31 **IN A CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY SPECIFICALLY TO SERVE AT**
32 **LEAST THE RESIDENTS OF THE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY IF THE CONTINUING CARE**
33 **RETIREMENT COMMUNITY REQUESTS THAT A POLLING PLACE BE ESTABLISHED ON**
34 **THE COMMUNITY PREMISES.**

35 **(III) IF, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**
36 **PARAGRAPH, A POLLING PLACE IS ESTABLISHED AT A CONTINUING CARE**

1 RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, THE CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
2 SHALL:

3 1. PROVIDE WITHOUT CHARGE TO THE LOCAL BOARD A
4 FACILITY FOR USE AS A POLLING PLACE THAT MEETS ALL APPLICABLE
5 REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS ARTICLE AND AS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD;
6 AND

7 2. PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE LOCAL BOARD IN
8 RECRUITING ELECTION JUDGES FROM AMONG THE RESIDENTS OF THE CONTINUING
9 CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY TO STAFF THE POLLING PLACE.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
11 1, 2022.