

SENATE BILL 493

G1

4lr2272

By: **Senator Kagan**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elections – Ranked–Choice Voting – Contests for Presidential Nomination in**
3 **2028**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring that, in a certain statewide primary election, each contest for
5 the nomination by a political party of a candidate for the office of President of the
6 United States be conducted using ranked–choice voting; requiring the State Board
7 of Elections to develop and pay the cost of a certain voter education campaign and
8 conduct and pay the cost of a certain survey of voters related to ranked–choice voting;
9 and generally relating to ranked–choice voting.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Election Law

12 Section 8–206

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Election Law**

18 **8–206.**

19 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “RANKED–CHOICE VOTING” MEANS A METHOD OF**
20 **CASTING AND TABULATING VOTES IN WHICH VOTERS RANK CANDIDATES IN ORDER**
21 **OF PREFERENCE AND VOTES ARE TABULATED IN A MANNER THAT REFLECTS VOTER**
22 **PREFERENCE.**

23 **(B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE, IN THE**
24 **2028 STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION, EACH CONTEST FOR THE NOMINATION BY A**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 POLITICAL PARTY OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES SHALL BE CONDUCTED USING RANKED-CHOICE VOTING.

3 (C) THE STATE BOARD SHALL:

4 (1) DEVELOP AND PAY THE COST OF A VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN
5 TO INFORM VOTERS ABOUT RANKED-CHOICE VOTING;

6 (2) SHARE THE VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN DEVELOPED UNDER
7 ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION WITH THE LOCAL BOARDS; AND

8 (3) CONDUCT AND PAY THE COST OF A SURVEY OF VOTERS AFTER THE
9 PRIMARY ELECTION TO GAUGE THE SATISFACTION OF THE VOTERS WITH
10 RANKED-CHOICE VOTING.

11 (D) (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2029, THE STATE BOARD SHALL
12 SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE
13 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT INCLUDES:

14 (I) A SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY CONDUCTED
15 UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(3) OF THIS SECTION;

16 (II) ANY ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES TO IMPLEMENTING
17 RANKED-CHOICE VOTING;

18 (III) WHETHER RANKED-CHOICE VOTING CAUSED MORE VOTERS
19 TO MARK THEIR BALLOTS INCORRECTLY; AND

20 (IV) RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION
21 OF RANKED-CHOICE VOTING IN FUTURE ELECTIONS.

22 (2) THE REPORT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL
23 BE:

24 (I) DISTRIBUTED TO THE LOCAL BOARDS; AND

25 (II) POSTED ON THE STATE BOARD'S WEBSITE.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of September
28 30, 2029, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
29 abrogated and of no further force and effect.