

HOUSE BILL 1514

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4lr3513

By: **Delegate Fair**

Introduced and read first time: February 24, 2024

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elections – Ranked–Choice Voting – Contests for Presidential Nomination**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Board of Elections, beginning with a certain
4 statewide primary election, to use ranked–choice voting to conduct a contest for the
5 nomination by a political party of a candidate for the office of President of the United
6 States; requiring the State Board of Elections to develop and pay the cost of a certain
7 voter education campaign under certain circumstances; and generally relating to
8 ranked–choice voting.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Election Law

11 Section 8–206

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 **8–206.**

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

22 **(B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE,**
23 **BEGINNING WITH THE 2028 STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION, THE STATE BOARD**
24 **MAY USE RANKED–CHOICE VOTING TO CONDUCT A CONTEST FOR THE NOMINATION**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY A POLITICAL PARTY OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE
2 UNITED STATES.

3 (C) (1) IF THE STATE BOARD USES RANKED-CHOICE VOTING UNDER
4 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE BOARD SHALL:

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

7 (II) SHARE THE VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN DEVELOPED
8 UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH WITH THE LOCAL BOARDS; AND

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

12 1. A REVIEW OF THE USE OF RANKED-CHOICE VOTING
13 DURING THE 2028 STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION; AND

14 2. RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE
15 IMPLEMENTATION AND EXPANSION OF RANKED-CHOICE VOTING IN FUTURE
16 ELECTIONS.

17 (2) THE REPORT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(III) OF THIS SUBSECTION
18 SHALL BE:

19 (I) DISTRIBUTED TO THE LOCAL BOARDS; AND

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

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2024.