

# HOUSE BILL 174

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

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2019

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Absentee Ballot Requests – Last Four Digits of Social Security**  
3 **Number**

4 FOR the purpose of altering a certain provision of law to require absent uniformed services  
5 voters and overseas voters as defined in the federal Uniformed and Overseas  
6 Citizens Absentee Voting Act and voters with a disability who do not have a  
7 Maryland driver's license or Maryland identification card and who use certain  
8 methods to request certain absentee ballots to provide the last four digits of the  
9 applicant's Social Security number, rather than the full Social Security number; and  
10 generally relating to information required to be provided with absentee ballot  
11 requests.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Election Law  
14 Section 9–305  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Election Law**

20 9–305.

21 (a) A voter may request an absentee ballot by completing and submitting:

22 (1) the State Board approved absentee ballot application;

23 (2) a form provided under federal law;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) subject to subsection (b) of this section, a written request that includes:

2 (i) the voter's name, residence address, and signature; and

3 (ii) the address to which the ballot is to be mailed, if different from  
4 the residence address; or

5 (4) the accessible online absentee ballot application provided by the State  
6 Board.

7 (b) A voter who uses the online absentee ballot application to request that an  
8 absentee ballot be sent by any method or who uses any method to request to receive a blank  
9 absentee ballot through the Internet shall provide the following information:

10 (1) a Maryland driver's license number or Maryland identification card  
11 number, the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number, and other  
12 information identified by the State Board that is not generally available to the public but  
13 is readily available to the applicant; or

14 (2) if the applicant is an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter  
15 as defined in the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act or a voter  
16 with a disability and does not have a Maryland driver's license or Maryland identification  
17 card, **[a] THE LAST FOUR DIGITS OF THE APPLICANT'S** Social Security number.

18 (c) An application for an absentee ballot must be received by a local board:

19 (1) if the voter requests the absentee ballot be sent by mail or facsimile  
20 transmission, not later than the Tuesday preceding the election, at the time specified in the  
21 guidelines;

22 (2) if the voter requests the absentee ballot be sent by the Internet, not  
23 later than the Friday preceding the election, at the time specified in the guidelines; or

24 (3) if the voter or the voter's duly authorized agent applies for an absentee  
25 ballot in person at the local board office, not later than the closing of the polls on election  
26 day.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
28 1, 2019.