HOUSE BILL 202

G1 1lr0311 (PRE–FILED)

By: Delegate Stein

Requested: July 14, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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Election Law - Presidential Electors - Selection and Voting

FOR the purpose of altering the procedures for the selection of presidential elector nominees; requiring certain presidential elector nominees and alternates to execute a certain pledge; requiring that certain pledges accompany a certain submission; requiring that a certain vote be considered to be and counted as a vote for certain presidential electors; requiring the Governor to certify certain presidential electors and make certain statements in the certificate of ascertainment; requiring the State Administrator of Elections to preside at a certain meeting of certain presidential electors; providing that the position of a presidential elector not present at a certain meeting is vacant; requiring the State Administrator to appoint an individual as a substitute presidential elector to fill a certain presidential elector vacancy in a certain manner; requiring a certain individual to execute a certain pledge to qualify as a substitute presidential elector; requiring the State Administrator to provide presidential electors with certain ballots; requiring presidential electors to take certain actions to complete and submit certain ballots; requiring the State Administrator to examine certain ballots and accept certain ballots as cast; prohibiting the State Administrator from counting certain ballots under certain circumstances; providing that presidential electors who take certain actions vacate the office; requiring the State Administrator to distribute ballots and collect ballots from certain substitute presidential electors and repeat the process until all of the State's electoral votes have been cast and recorded; requiring the State Administrator to prepare an amended certificate of ascertainment for the Governor under certain circumstances; requiring the Governor to deliver and sign a certain amended certificate of ascertainment to the State Administrator and a certain duplicate original of the certificate to certain individuals; requiring the State Administrator to prepare a certain certificate of the vote; requiring certain presidential electors to sign a certain certificate; requiring the State Administrator to process and transmit the signed certificate of the vote with a certain certificate of ascertainment; defining certain terms; making conforming and clarifying changes;



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PARTY.

$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \end{array}$	providing for the effective dates of this Act; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to presidential electors.
3 4 5 6 7	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments, Article – Election Law Section 1–101(a) Annotated Code of Maryland (2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)
8 9 10 11 12	BY adding to Article – Election Law Section 1–101(ii–1) and (tt–1), 8–504, 8–506, 8–507, and 8–509 Annotated Code of Maryland (2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)
13 14 15 16 17	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Election Law Section 8–503, 8–504, and 8–505 Annotated Code of Maryland (2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)
18 19 20 21 22 23	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Election Law Section 8–505 Annotated Code of Maryland (2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement) (As enacted by Chapters 43 and 44 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007)
24 25	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
26	Article - Election Law
27	1–101.
28 29	(a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated unless a different meaning is clearly intended from the context.
30 31	(II-1) "PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR" MEANS AN ELECTOR FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
32 33 34	(TT-1) "UNAFFILIATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE" MEANS A CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT BY MEANS OTHER THAN NOMINATION BY A POLITICAL

- 1 8–503.
- 2 **[**(a) Each political party shall nominate or provide for the nomination of a candidates for presidential elector of the party in accordance with party rules.
- 4 (b) The number of candidates nominated by each political party shall be the 5 number that this State is entitled to elect.
- 6 (A) (1) FOR EACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR, A POLITICAL PARTY
 7 CONTESTING THE POSITION, OR AN UNAFFILIATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE,
 8 SHALL SUBMIT TO THE STATE BOARD THE NAMES OF TWO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.
- 9 (2) ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS SHALL BE DESIGNATED 10 "PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOMINEE" AND THE OTHER "ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL 11 ELECTOR NOMINEE".
- [(c)] (B) (1) The names and residential addresses of [individuals nominated as candidates for presidential elector] THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS SUBMITTED TO THE STATE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION by a political party shall be certified to the State Board by the presiding officers of the political party.
- 17 (2) The names and residential addresses of [individuals nominated as candidates for presidential elector] THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS SUBMITTED TO THE STATE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION by a candidate for President of the United States who is nominated by petition shall be certified to the State Board by the candidate.
- 22 (3) The **PRESIDENTIAL** electors shall be certified to the State Board at least 30 days before the general election.
- 24 **8–504.**
- 25EACH (A) **PRESIDENTIAL** ELECTOR **NOMINEE** AND **ALTERNATE** 26 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOMINEE OF A POLITICAL PARTY SHALL EXECUTE THE 27 FOLLOWING PLEDGE: "IF SELECTED FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENTIAL 28 ELECTOR, I AGREE TO SERVE AND TO MARK MY BALLOTS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE 29 PRESIDENT FOR THE NOMINEES FOR THOSE OFFICES OF THE PARTY THAT 30 NOMINATED ME.".
- 31 (B) EACH PRESIDENTIAL **ELECTOR** NOMINEE AND ALTERNATE 32 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOMINEE OF AN UNAFFILIATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SHALL EXECUTE THE FOLLOWING PLEDGE: "IF SELECTED FOR THE 33 34 POSITION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR AS A NOMINEE OF AN UNAFFILIATED

- 1 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, I AGREE TO SERVE AND TO MARK MY BALLOTS FOR THAT
- 2 CANDIDATE AND FOR THAT CANDIDATE'S VICE-PRESIDENTIAL RUNNING MATE.".
- 3 (C) THE EXECUTED PLEDGES SHALL ACCOMPANY THE SUBMISSION OF THE 4 CORRESPONDING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NAMES TO THE STATE BOARD.
- 5 [8–504.] **8–505.**
- 6 (a) (1) At the general election for President and Vice President of the United 7 States there shall be elected, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the number 8 of presidential electors to which this State is entitled.
- 9 (2) Presidential electors shall be elected at large by the voters of the entire 10 State.
- 11 (b) (1) The names of the candidates for the office of presidential elector may 12 not be printed on the ballot.
- 13 (2) A vote for the candidates for President and Vice President of a political party shall be considered to be and counted as a vote for each of the presidential electors of the political party [nominated] SUBMITTED in accordance with § 8–503 of this subtitle.
- 16 (3) A VOTE FOR AN UNAFFILIATED PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
 17 SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO BE AND COUNTED AS A VOTE FOR EACH OF THE
 18 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS SUBMITTED BY THE UNAFFILIATED PRESIDENTIAL
 19 CANDIDATE TO THE STATE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 8–503 OF THIS
 20 SUBTITLE.
- 21 **8–506.**
- IN SUBMITTING THIS STATE'S CERTIFICATE OF ASCERTAINMENT AS REQUIRED BY 3 U.S.C. § 6, THE GOVERNOR SHALL CERTIFY THE STATE'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS AND STATE IN THE CERTIFICATE THAT:
- 25 (1) THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS WILL SERVE AS PRESIDENTIAL
 26 ELECTORS UNLESS A VACANCY OCCURS IN THE OFFICE OF ELECTOR BEFORE THE
 27 END OF THE MEETING AT WHICH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR VOTES ARE CAST, IN
 28 WHICH CASE A SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR WILL FILL THE VACANCY; AND
- (2) IF A SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR IS APPOINTED TO FILL 30 A VACANCY, THE GOVERNOR WILL SUBMIT AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF ASCERTAINMENT STATING THE NAMES ON THE FINAL LIST OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.
- 33 **8–507.**

- 1 THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL PRESIDE AT THE MEETING OF 2 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS DESCRIBED IN § 8–508 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
- 3 (B) THE POSITION OF A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR NOT PRESENT TO VOTE IS VACANT.
- 5 THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL APPOINT AN INDIVIDUAL AS A 6 SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR TO FILL A VACANCY AS FOLLOWS:
- 7 IF THE ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR IS PRESENT TO 8 VOTE, BY APPOINTING THE ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR FOR THE VACANT POSITION; 9
- 10 IF THE ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR FOR THE VACANT 11 POSITION IS NOT PRESENT TO VOTE, BY APPOINTING A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR 12 CHOSEN BY LOT FROM AMONG THE ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS PRESENT
- 13 TO VOTE WHO WERE NOMINATED BY THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY OR THE
- 14 UNAFFILIATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE;
- 15 **(3)** IF THE NUMBER OF ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS 16 PRESENT TO VOTE IS INSUFFICIENT TO FILL ANY VACANT POSITION IN ACCORDANCE
- WITH ITEM (1) OR (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, BY APPOINTING ANY IMMEDIATELY 17
- AVAILABLE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS QUALIFIED TO SERVE AS A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR 18
- 19 AND CHOSEN THROUGH NOMINATION BY AND PLURALITY VOTE OF THE REMAINING
- 20 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, INCLUDING NOMINATION AND VOTE BY A SINGLE
- 21PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR IF ONLY ONE REMAINS;
- 22**(4)** IF THERE IS A TIE BETWEEN AT LEAST TWO NOMINEES FOR 23 SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR IN A VOTE CONDUCTED UNDER ITEM (3) OF
- 24THIS SUBSECTION, BY APPOINTING A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR CHOSEN BY LOT
- 25 FROM AMONG THOSE NOMINEES; OR
- 26 IF ALL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR POSITIONS ARE VACANT AND
- 27CANNOT BE FILLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEM (1), (2), (3), OR (4) OF THIS
- SUBSECTION, BY APPOINTING A SINGLE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR, WITH REMAINING 28
- 29 VACANT POSITIONS TO BE FILLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEM (3) OR (4) OF THIS
- 30 SUBSECTION.
- TO QUALIFY AS A SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR UNDER 31
- 32SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS NOT EXECUTED THE
- PLEDGE REQUIRED UNDER § 8-504 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL EXECUTE THE 33
- FOLLOWING PLEDGE: "I AGREE TO SERVE AND TO MARK MY BALLOTS FOR 34

- 1 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT CONSISTENT WITH THE PLEDGE OF THE
- 2 INDIVIDUAL TO WHOSE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR POSITION I HAVE SUCCEEDED.".
- 3 **8–509.**
- 4 (A) AFTER THE VOTE OF THIS STATE'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS IS
- 5 COMPLETED, IF THE FINAL LIST OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS DIFFERS FROM ANY
- 6 LIST THAT THE GOVERNOR PREVIOUSLY INCLUDED ON A CERTIFICATE OF
- 7 ASCERTAINMENT PREPARED AND TRANSMITTED UNDER 3 U.S.C. § 6, THE STATE
- 8 ADMINISTRATOR IMMEDIATELY SHALL PREPARE AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF
- 9 ASCERTAINMENT AND TRANSMIT IT TO THE GOVERNOR FOR THE GOVERNOR'S
- 10 SIGNATURE.
- 11 (B) THE GOVERNOR IMMEDIATELY SHALL DELIVER THE SIGNED AMENDED
- 12 CERTIFICATE OF ASCERTAINMENT TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR AND A SIGNED
- 13 DUPLICATE ORIGINAL OF THE AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF ASCERTAINMENT TO ALL
- 14 INDIVIDUALS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THIS STATE'S CERTIFICATE OF
- 15 ASCERTAINMENT, INDICATING THAT THE AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF
- 16 ASCERTAINMENT IS TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF
- 17 ASCERTAINMENT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED.
- 18 (C) (1) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL PREPARE A CERTIFICATE OF
- 19 THE VOTE.
- 20 (2) THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS ON THE FINAL LIST SHALL SIGN
- 21 THE CERTIFICATE.
- 22 (3) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL PROCESS AND TRANSMIT THE
- 23 SIGNED CERTIFICATE WITH THE AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF ASCERTAINMENT
- 24 UNDER 3 U.S.C. §§ 9 THROUGH 11.
- 25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
- as follows:

27 Article – Election Law

- 28 [8–505.] **8–508.**
- 29 (a) (1) The individuals elected to the office of presidential elector shall meet in
- 30 the State House in the City of Annapolis on the day provided by the Constitution and laws
- 31 of the United States.
- 32 (2) The conduct of the meeting shall be consistent with the requirements
- 33 of federal law.

- 1 (b) (1) Before proceeding to perform the duties of their office, the presidential 2 electors who are present shall fill any vacancy in the office of elector IN ACCORDANCE 3 WITH § 8–507 OF THIS SUBTITLE, whether the vacancy is caused by absence or other reason.
- 5 (2) An individual appointed to fill a vacancy is entitled to all rights and 6 privileges of the duly elected electors.
- 7 (c) (1) After taking the oath prescribed by Article I, § 9 of the Maryland 8 Constitution before the Clerk of the Court of Appeals or, in the Clerk's absence, before one 9 of the Clerk's deputies, the presidential electors shall cast their votes for the candidates for 10 President and Vice President who received a plurality of the votes cast in the State of 11 Maryland.
- 12 **(2)** THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL PROVIDE EACH 13 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR WITH A PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT.
- 14 (3) EACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SHALL MARK THE PRESIDENTIAL 15 ELECTOR'S PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL BALLOTS WITH THE 16 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S SIGNATURE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S 17 LEGIBLY PRINTED NAME.
- 18 **(D) (1) E**ACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SHALL PRESENT BOTH 19 COMPLETED BALLOTS TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR.
- 20 (2) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL EXAMINE THE BALLOTS
 21 PRESENTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND ACCEPT AS CAST ALL
 22 BALLOTS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS WHOSE VOTES ARE CONSISTENT WITH THEIR
 23 PLEDGES EXECUTED UNDER § 8–504 OR § 8–507(D) OF THIS SUBTITLE.
- 24 (3) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR MAY NOT COUNT EITHER A
 25 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S PRESIDENTIAL OR VICE-PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT IF THE
 26 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR HAS NOT MARKED BOTH BALLOTS OR HAS MARKED A
 27 BALLOT IN VIOLATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S PLEDGE.
- 28 (E) A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR WHO REFUSES TO PRESENT A BALLOT, 29 PRESENTS AN UNMARKED BALLOT, OR PRESENTS A BALLOT MARKED IN VIOLATION 30 OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S PLEDGE EXECUTED UNDER § 8–504 OR § 8–507(D) 31 OF THIS SUBTITLE VACATES THE OFFICE OF ELECTOR, CREATING A VACANT POSITION TO BE FILLED UNDER § 8–507 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
- 33 (F) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL DISTRIBUTE BALLOTS AND 34 COLLECT BALLOTS FROM A SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR AND REPEAT THE

- 1 PROCESS UNDER THIS SECTION, DECLARING AND FILLING VACANT POSITIONS AS
- 2 REQUIRED, AND RECORDING APPROPRIATELY COMPLETED BALLOTS FROM THE
- 3 SUBSTITUTED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, UNTIL ALL OF THIS STATE'S ELECTORAL
- 4 VOTES HAVE BEEN CAST AND RECORDED.
- 5 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read 6 as follows:

7 Article – Election Law

- 8 **[**8–505.**] 8–508.**
- 9 (a) (1) The individuals elected to the office of presidential elector shall meet in the State House in the City of Annapolis on the day provided by the Constitution and laws of the United States.
- 12 (2) The conduct of the meeting shall be consistent with the requirements 13 of federal law.
- 14 (b) (1) Before proceeding to perform the duties of their office, the presidential electors who are present shall fill any vacancy in the office of elector IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 8–507 OF THIS SUBTITLE, whether the vacancy is caused by absence or other reason.
- 18 (2) An individual appointed to fill a vacancy is entitled to all rights and 19 privileges of the duly elected electors.
- 20 (c) (1) After taking the oath prescribed by Article I, § 9 of the Maryland Constitution before the Clerk of the Court of Appeals or, in the Clerk's absence, before one of the Clerk's deputies, the presidential electors shall cast their votes for the candidates for President and Vice President who received a plurality of the votes cast in the national popular vote total defined in § 8–5A–01 of this title.
- 25 (2) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL PROVIDE EACH 26 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR WITH A PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT.
- 27 (3) EACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SHALL MARK THE PRESIDENTIAL 28 ELECTOR'S PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL BALLOTS WITH THE 29 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S SIGNATURE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S 30 LEGIBLY PRINTED NAME.
- 31 **(D) (1)** EACH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SHALL PRESENT BOTH 32 COMPLETED BALLOTS TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR, WHO SHALL EXAMINE THE 33 BALLOTS AND ACCEPT AS CAST ALL BALLOTS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS WHOSE 34 VOTES ARE CONSISTENT WITH THEIR PLEDGES EXECUTED FOR THE CANDIDATES

- FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT WHO ARE THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE WINNERS AS DEFINED IN § 8–5A–01 OF THIS TITLE.
- 3 (2) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR MAY NOT COUNT EITHER A
 4 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S PRESIDENTIAL OR VICE-PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT IF THE
 5 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR HAS NOT MARKED BOTH BALLOTS OR HAS MARKED A
 6 BALLOT IN VIOLATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S PLEDGE.
- 7 (E) A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR WHO REFUSES TO PRESENT A BALLOT, 8 PRESENTS AN UNMARKED BALLOT, OR PRESENTS A BALLOT MARKED IN VIOLATION 9 OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR'S PLEDGE EXECUTED UNDER § 8–504 OR § 8–507(D) 10 OF THIS SUBTITLE VACATES THE OFFICE OF ELECTOR, CREATING A VACANT POSITION TO BE FILLED UNDER § 8–507 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
- 12 (F) THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL DISTRIBUTE BALLOTS AND COLLECT BALLOTS FROM A SUBSTITUTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR AND REPEAT THE PROCESS UNDER THIS SECTION, DECLARING AND FILLING VACANT POSITIONS AS REQUIRED, AND RECORDING APPROPRIATELY COMPLETED BALLOTS FROM THE SUBSTITUTED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, UNTIL ALL OF THIS STATE'S ELECTORAL VOTES HAVE BEEN CAST AND RECORDED.
- SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021. It shall remain effective until the taking effect of Section 1 of Chapter 43 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007 and Section 1 of Chapter 44 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007. If the contingency stated in Section 1 of Chapter 43 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007 and Section 1 of Chapter 44 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007 take effect, Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.
 - SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 3 of this Act shall take effect on the taking effect of Section 1 of Chapter 43 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007 and Section 1 of Chapter 44 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007.

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SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of Sections 4 and 5 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.