HOUSE BILL 245

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(PRE-FILED)

1lr1509

By: **Delegate Hill** Requested: October 31, 2020 Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021 Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

Election Judges - Training and Signs - Accommodations for Voters in Need of Assistance

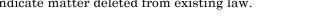
FOR the purpose of requiring that certain training materials used by the program of instruction for election judges include oral and written instruction in certain methods an election judge may use to assist or accommodate elderly and disabled voters in voting; requiring the State Board of Elections to develop a certain sign; requiring that a certain sign be a certain size and posted in a certain location; making conforming and stylistic changes; and generally relating to accommodations for voters in need of assistance and election judges.

- 11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 12 Article Election Law
- 13 Section 10–206 and 10–306
- 14 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 15 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

18			Article – Election Law
19	10–206.		
20	(a)	In cor	nsultation with the local boards, the State Board shall:
21		(1)	develop a program of instruction of election judges; and
22		(2)	oversee the implementation of the program of instruction.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.





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1	(b)	(1)	The t	raining materials [utilized] USED by the program may include:		
2		[(1)]	(I)	an instruction manual and other written directives;		
3		[(2)]	(II)	curriculum for training sessions; and		
4		[(3)]	(III)	audiovisuals.		
$5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \\ 10$	ELECTION VOTERS IN INDIVIDUA	JUDGI VOTI LIZED	AND E MAY ING A' ACCO	TRAINING MATERIALS USED BY THE PROGRAM SHALL WRITTEN INSTRUCTION IN THE VARIOUS METHODS AN USE TO ASSIST OR ACCOMMODATE ELDERLY AND DISABLED T A POLLING SITE, INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE DMMODATIONS AT THE REQUEST OF A VOTER OR AN DMPANIES A VOTER IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE.		
$\frac{11}{12}$	(c) program an			Board shall develop a process for the evaluation of the training ance of the polling place staff in each county.		
$\frac{13}{14}$	(d) To the extent appropriate, the training program shall be specific to each of the voting systems used in polling places in the State.					
$\begin{array}{c} 15\\ 16 \end{array}$	(e) The State Board shall provide election judges with uniform statewide training on the voting system, including:					
17 18	disabilities;	(1) and	all fe	atures of the voting system that provide access to voters with		
$\frac{19}{20}$	by State and	(2) d feder		ghts of voters with disabilities, including those rights guaranteed		
$\frac{21}{22}$	(f) developed b			ooard shall conduct election judge training based on the program oard.		
$\frac{23}{24}$	(g) judge shall j	(1) particij	_	ot as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, each election the training program provided for in subsection (a) of this section.		
$\frac{25}{26}$	not required	(2) d to att		ection judge who is appointed under emergency circumstances is e course of instruction.		
27	10–306.					
28 29 30	(a) boards, shal polling plac			State Board, in consultation with the election directors of the local produce the following informational materials to be posted in each		
31			(i)	a specimen ballot for that precinct;		

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1 (ii) instructions relating to the availability of assistance to elderly $\mathbf{2}$ and disabled voters IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B) 3 **OF THIS SECTION:** information regarding the date of the election and the hours 4 (iii) during which the polling places will be open; $\mathbf{5}$ 6 (iv) instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a vote; 7 instructions for mail-in registrants and first-time voters; (v) 8 (vi) general information on voting rights under applicable federal 9 and State laws and instructions on how to contact the appropriate local board if these rights are alleged to have been violated; 10 11 information regarding provisional voting, including: (vii) 12information on the right of an individual to cast a 1. 13 provisional ballot; 14 2.how to fill out the provisional ballot application and cast 15the provisional ballot; and 16 the standards that will be applied in determining whether 3. 17a provisional ballot will be counted; and 18 (viii) general information on federal and State laws regarding prohibitions on acts of fraud and misrepresentation. 1920A local board may produce other materials appropriate for the polling (2)21places in the county. 22THE STATE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP A SIGN THAT STATES THE **(B)** (1) 23VARIOUS METHODS ELECTION JUDGES MAY USE TO ASSIST OR ACCOMMODATE 24ELDERLY AND DISABLED VOTERS IN VOTING, INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE 25INDIVIDUALIZED ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE REQUEST OF A VOTER OR AN 26INDIVIDUAL WHO ACCOMPANIES A VOTER IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE. 27(2) THE SIGN REQUIRED TO BE DEVELOPED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) **OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE:** 2829**(I)** AT A MINIMUM, 24 INCHES BY 36 INCHES IN SIZE; AND 30 **(II)** POSTED PROMINENTLY AT THE ENTRANCE OF EACH

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POLLING SITE.

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1 [(b)] (C) Before the polls open, the election judges for each precinct shall post all 2 information specified under [subsection] SUBSECTIONS (a) AND (B) of this section.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 4 October 1, 2021.