

House Bill HB 992

Election Law – Qualification of Voters – Proof of
identity

February 26, 2019

Sponsored by: Delegate Neil Parrott

Email: Neil.Parrott@house.state.md.us Phone: (410) 841-3636

Question for the committee

If an individual votes 5 times in the same election, and no one notices, did it actually happen?

- How could anyone notice?
- There's no way to catch something that you're not checking for.

Ellen Sauerbrey

- In the 1994 Gubernatorial Election, Ellen Sauerbrey lost by 5, 993 votes
 - 1.4 million ballots were cast in that election
 - 11,000 ballots were brought into serious question
 - 4,774 ballots were cast in the name of people who were in prison on election day
 - 37 ballots were cast by deceased voters
 - 84 people voted twice = 168 ballots
- Why not make improvements to voter ID to reduce questions about the veracity of the elections?

Al Gore

- In the 2000 Presidential Election, Al Gore lost in Florida by only 537 votes.
- There were 6 million ballots cast in Florida

Example from Virginia

- Proof of identity matters, especially in close elections
- In 2017, Virginia had to settle one disputed election by casting lots.
- One ballot would determine if there was a tie and what party would have control over the House of Delegates
- In cases like this it is imperative that officials be able to certify that voters are who they say they are

Reduce Voter Fraud



Check
every
voter's
photo ID



Why Elections Are Important

- Elections have serious consequences, and we need to make sure that each Maryland citizen gets one, and only one, vote.
- Every fraudulent vote counteracts one honest vote and restricts your voice in your government.

HB 992- What it does

- An individual can vote by provisional ballot, only as long as no other person with that name/voter record voted across the state in that election.
- If they cannot provide a photo ID, they can vote by provisional ballot and confirm their identity within a reasonable time frame determined by the BOE.
- Requires voters to provide a current, government-issued photo ID when they vote at the polls.

We Can Give
them and ID

If a voter does not have a photo ID, the bill provides that individuals can obtain one from the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), free of charge.

Actions that Require a Photo ID

- Driving
- Boarding an Airplane
- Going to the Doctor
- Applying for a Job
- Bank Transactions
- College Applications
- Gaining Admission to the General Assembly to Testify
- Getting a Library Card
- Receiving Social Security Services
- Buying alcohol or cigarettes
- Applying for food stamps/welfare
- Renting a car/carpet steamer
- Going to an "R" rated movie

ID's. Not just for Voting

- If you truly care about people that do not have ID's then we should pass this bill to help people get an ID that they can use to function in society.
- With this bill when political campaigns try to get people to vote who don't have ID's, we will actually be helping the people by not only helping them to vote, but also to get an ID.

What this Bill Does

- This bill helps people get a photo-ID that they can use to vote and for other purposes.
- By giving out **free photo-IDs**, this bill will help people register to vote who would not vote otherwise.

Why it matters.

Is this really a problem?

- In 2012, an undercover journalist recorded himself at a Washington DC polling location, asking for Eric Holder's voter ballot.
 - The Poll Worker offered US Attorney General Eric H. Holder's ballot to a complete stranger.
- Eric Holder has said multiple times there exists no evidence of voter fraud.
- This shows that it is **increasingly easy to cheat** in elections without voter ID

Voter ID
Fraud is a
problem

We need to improve our voting system so that we can effectively deter and detect voter fraud

Jimmy Carter

“A good registration list will ensure that citizens are only registered in one place, but elections officials still need to make sure that the person arriving at a polling site is the same one that is named on the registration list... ..There is no evidence of extensive fraud in U.S. elections or of multiple voting, but both occur, and it could affect the outcome of a close election. **The electoral system cannot inspire public confidence if no safeguards exist to deter or detect fraud or to confirm the identity of voters.**”

-Jimmy Carter

National Voter Registration Act of 1993

Findings:

The Congress finds that—

- (1) the right of citizens of the United States to vote is a fundamental right;
- (2) it is the duty of the Federal, State, and local governments to promote the exercise of that right; and
- (3) discriminatory and unfair registration laws and procedures can have a direct and damaging effect on voter participation in elections for Federal office and disproportionately harm voter participation by various groups, including racial minorities.

Voter Turn Out – Georgia

- *“If you look at the numbers, they clearly show that critics of this [voter ID] law were wrong,”* said Hans von Spakovsky, a former legal counsel to the Justice Department’s civil rights division.
- He also stated, *“Their argument has always been it would depress turnout, but it didn’t happen — **quite the opposite.**”*

Voter Turn Out – Georgia

TABLE 2

Georgia Voter Turnout, by Racial Group, 2004 and 2008

Voter Demographic	2004 Total Votes Cast	2008 Total Votes Cast	Percentage Increase
Hispanic/Latino	18,000	43,000	140%
Black	834,000	1.2 million	42%
White	2.3 million	2.5 million	8%

Source: Brian P. Kemp, Georgia Secretary of State, "Voting with Photo Identification," PowerPoint presentation made at the Conservative Leadership Conference of the Civitas Institute, March 2, 2012.

IB 3541  heritage.org

Note: Both the 2004 and 2008 elections are non-presidential election years

But It's NOT
Just Georgia !

The 2014 midterm election had the highest number of votes cast and the highest number of registered voters during any midterm election, the secretary of state's office said in Kansas.

Kansas Voter Turnout - 2010/2014

2010

50% of registered voters voted

856,831 votes in total

2014

51% registered voters voted

889,881 votes in total

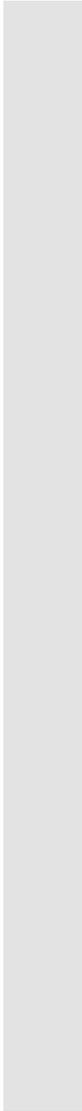
Why this bill?

- **It protects** the integrity of our voting system. If you have to provide a valid ID to receive food stamps, to write a check, or to get a library card, why would we treat our elections with less respect?
- **It communicates** to voters that when they vote, it's fair, and their vote counts.
- **It counteracts** the disenfranchisement argument because:
 - It allows those without photo ID to still vote, but have their votes verified individually.
 - It provides a free state ID from the MVA to those that want one for voting

Please vote
favorably
on LR 1587
to:

Tell our voters that we:

- Want to protect their right to vote
- Value their participation
- Will make sure that their, and only their, voices will be heard



QUESTIONS?