

10 AN ACT CONCERNING

20 **Election Law - An Income Tax Credit for Voters**

30 FOR the purpose of adding to the current election law of the state of Maryland to provide incentive for
40 citizens eligible to vote to exercise that right with an income tax credit.

50 By adding to
60 Article – Tax – General
70 Title 10, Subtitle 7
80 Annotated Code of Maryland
90 2002 Volume

100 **Preamble**

- 110 WHEREAS: Since 1960, voter turnout in Presidential election years has fallen more than 10%; and,
120 WHEREAS: It is generally felt in the United States that voter apathy is disturbingly widespread; and,
130 WHEREAS: Participation of the citizenry in a system where officials are elected democratically is
140 critical to a healthy relationship between citizens and the government; and,
150 WHEREAS: Increasing the number of citizens of voting age who register and come out to vote in all
160 elections is an endeavor which should be undertaken; and,
170 WHEREAS: There should be some kind of incentive for citizens to register and come out to vote; and,
180 WHEREAS: Voters should be rewarded for remaining involved, informed, and educated enough to
190 come out and take the time to vote on Election Day; and,
200 WHEREAS: One method which could be used to encourage voting age citizens to exercise their right
210 to vote is to provide each of them with an income tax credit; and,

220 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE, That the laws of
230 Maryland read as follows:

240 **Article – Tax – General**

250 § 10-725 INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR VOTER PARTICIPATION

260 EACH CITIZEN OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND IS ELIGIBLE FOR A 1% REDUCTION IN
270 HIS/HER GROSS TAXABLE INCOME UPON SUBMISSION OF AN OFFICIAL RECEIPT
280 FROM ELECTION OFFICIALS WITH THEIR STATE INCOME TAX RETURN.

290 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that the Maryland State Board of Elections issue
300 official receipts to indicate that an individual has indeed voted, upon submission of their ballot.

310 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this act be enacted on July 1, 2002.

320 MANDATES: Governor Parris N. Glendening
330 Governor-Elect Robert Ehrlich
340 Comptroller William Donald Schaefer
350 Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, Jr.
370 Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr.

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Senate Budget and Taxation Committee Chair Ulysses Currie

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