

**A016-0708**

10 **An Act Concerning**

20 Minor Access to Voting Room

30 FOR the purposes of allowing children aged 17 and younger access to voting rooms

40 BY repealing, and reenacting, with amendments,  
50 Article – Election Law  
60 § 10-308, § 10-310

70 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE,  
80 That the Laws of Maryland reads as follows:

90 **§ 10-308. Access to voting room.**

100 (a) Individuals allowed to have access to voting room.- An election judge shall allow the  
110 following individuals to have access to the voting room at a polling place:

120 (1) a voter;

130 (2) an individual who accompanies a voter in need of assistance in accordance with § 10-  
140 310(c) of this subtitle;

150 (3) polling place staff;

160 (4) a member or other representative of the State Board or local board;

170 (5) an accredited watcher or challenger under § 10-311 of this subtitle;

180 (6) an individual under the age of ~~13~~ 18 who accompanies a voter in accordance with §  
190 10-310(c) of this subtitle, provided that the individual is in the care of the voter and does  
200 not disrupt or interfere with normal voting procedures; and

210 (7) any other individual authorized by the State Board or local board.

220 (b) Limitation.- Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(6) of this section, not more than  
230 two individuals under the age of ~~13~~ 18 may accompany a voter in accordance with § 10-310(c) of  
240 this subtitle.

250 **§ 10-310. Same - Voting hours.**

260 (a) Qualification of voters.- For each individual who seeks to vote, an election judge, in  
270 accordance with instructions provided by the local board, shall:

280 (1) locate the individual's name in the precinct register and locate the preprinted voting  
290 authority card and then authorize the individual to vote a regular ballot;

300 (2)

310 (i) if the individual's name is not found on the precinct register, search the  
320 inactive list and if the name is found, authorize the individual to vote a regular  
330 ballot; or

340 (ii) if the individual's name is not on the inactive list, refer the individual for  
350 provisional ballot voting under § 9-404 of this article;

360 (3) establish the identity of the voter by requesting the voter to state the month and day of  
370 the voter's birth and comparing the response to the information listed in the precinct  
380 register;

390 (4)  
400 (i) except if a voter's personal information has been deemed confidential by the  
410 local board, verify the address of the voter's residence; or

420 (ii) conduct an alternative verification as established by the State Board, if the  
430 voter's personal information has been deemed confidential by the local board;

440 (5) if any changes to the voting authority card are indicated by a voter, make the  
450 appropriate changes in information on the card or other appropriate form; and

460 (6) have the voter sign the voting authority card and either issue the voter a ballot or send  
470 the voter to a machine to vote.

480 (b) Right to vote.- On the completion of the procedures set forth in subsection (a) of this section, a  
490 voter may vote in accordance with the procedures appropriate to the voting system used in the  
500 polling place.

510 (c) Instruction of and assistance to voters.-

520 (1) Before a voter enters a voting booth, at the request of the voter, an election judge  
530 shall:

540 (i) instruct the voter about the operation of the voting system; and

550 (ii) allow the voter an opportunity to operate a model voting device, if  
560 appropriate to the voting system in use.

570 (2)

580 (i)  
590 1. After a voter enters the voting booth, at the request of the voter, two  
600 election judges representing different political parties shall instruct the  
610 voter on the operation of the voting device.

620 2. An election judge may not suggest in any way how the voter should  
630 vote for a particular ticket, candidate, or position on a question.

640 3. After instructing the voter, the election judges shall exit the voting  
650 booth and allow the voter to vote privately.

660 (ii) A voter may take into the polling place any written or printed material to  
670 assist the voter in marking or preparing the ballot.

680 (3)

690 (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, a voter who  
700 requires assistance in marking or preparing the ballot because of a physical  
710 disability or an inability to read the English language may choose any individual  
720 to assist the voter.

730 (ii) A voter may not choose the voter's employer or agent of that employer or an  
740 officer or agent of the voter's union to assist the voter in marking the ballot.

750 (4) If the voter requires the assistance of another in voting, but declines to select an  
760 individual to assist, an election judge, in the presence of another election judge that  
770 represents another political party, shall assist the voter in the manner prescribed by the  
780 voter.

790 (5) An individual assisting a voter may not suggest in any way how the voter should vote  
800 for a particular ticket, candidate, or position on a question.

810 (6) If a voter requires assistance under paragraph (4) or (5) of this subsection, the election  
820 judge shall record, on a form prescribed by the State Board, the name of the voter who  
830 required assistance and the name of the individual providing assistance to the voter.

840 (7) Except as provided in paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection, an individual over the  
850 age of ~~12~~ 17 years may not accompany a voter into a voting booth.

860 **MANDATES:**

870 Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland  
880 Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor of Maryland  
890 Thomas V. Mike Miller, President of the Senate  
900 Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates  
910 Edward J. Kasemeyer, Senate Majority Leader  
920 David R. Brinkley, Senate Minority Leader  
930 Kumar P. Barve, House Majority Leader  
940 Anthony J. O'Donnell, House Minority Leader

**Sponsor:**

Andrea P. Thomson  
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