

HOUSE BILL 948

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71r2337

By: **Delegate Carter**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2007

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Task Force on Instant Voter Registration and Voting by Mail**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Instant Voter Registration and
4 Voting by Mail to study and assess certain aspects of registration and voting for
5 elections in the State; providing for the membership and staffing of the Task
6 Force; authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring a report by
7 a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
8 to the Task Force on Instant Voter Registration and Voting by Mail.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 MARYLAND, That:

11 (a) There is a Task Force on Instant Voter Registration and Voting by Mail.

12 (b) The Task Force shall study and assess the following issues:

13 (1) the viability of authorizing and directing personnel of the Motor
14 Vehicle Administration of the Maryland Department of Transportation to fully process
15 an application to register to vote, or update a voter registration, in a manner that
16 gives instant effect to the registration or change; and

17 (2) the viability of conducting an election in the State exclusively by
18 mailed ballots.

19 (c) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (1) a chair, appointed by the Governor;
- 2 (2) three members of the Senate Education, Health, and
3 Environmental Affairs Committee, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 4 (3) three members of the House Committee on Ways and Means,
5 appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 6 (4) the State Administrator of Elections, or the Administrator's
7 designee;
- 8 (5) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;
- 9 (6) a representative of the local boards of elections in Maryland,
10 appointed by the Governor; and
- 11 (7) a representative of the general public, appointed by the Governor.

12 (d) The Task force shall be staffed jointly by the Department of Legislative
13 Services, the State Board of Elections, and the Motor Vehicle Administration.

14 (e) A member of the Task Force:

- 15 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 16 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
17 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

18 (f) The Task Force shall submit a report of its findings and any
19 recommended legislation to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the
20 State Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2008.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 June 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of
23 December 31, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
24 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.