

## (Senate Bill 206)

AN ACT concerning

## Elections - Ballots for Absentee Voters

FOR the purpose of requiring absentee ballots to contain either the words "Absentee Ballot" or "Official Ballot"; and repealing a requirement that the board of supervisors of elections must indicate certain information on an absentee voter's ballot before sending the ballot to a registered absentee voter.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 33 - Election Code  
Section 27-7(b)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1976 Replacement Volume and 1977 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

## Article 33 - Election Code

27-7.

(b) The ballots shall contain the words "Absentee Ballot" OR "OFFICIAL BALLOT" printed in large letters in a clear space at the top of each paper ballot or of each punchcard and covering folder as the case may be. If paper ballots are used, underneath these words shall be printed the following warning: "Mark ballot by placing X in proper blank after each candidate or question. Do not erase or make identifying mark." If punchcard ballots are used, underneath these words on each punchcard shall be printed the following warning: "Mark ballot by punching out the circled cross after each candidate or question indicating your choice. Do not repair or make identifying mark." If both sides of one or more punchcards are used to accommodate the ballot, the words "vote both sides" and the other wording required by this subsection shall appear on both sides of each punchcard. Where punchcards are used, these instructions may appear on stubs attached to the cards which may be removed after the absentee voter has voted. The designation of the election district or ward and the precinct shall be left blank on paper ballots on the back and outside of said ballots and on punchcard ballots on each punchcard and on the outside of the covering folders for said ballots, and such designation [shall] MAY be filled in by the appropriate board before being sent to any registered absentee voter.