

attempt to vote to the same criminal penalties contained in Senate Bill 461, Section 16-201 fails to provide an additional civil penalty. Clearly, enacting a law that contains both criminal and civil penalties for the type of behavior exemplified in Senate Bill 461 is disproportionately high in comparison to other penalties contained in Maryland's Election Code for offenses relating to impersonation and voter fraud.

To this end, I will instruct the State Board of Elections to conduct a comprehensive review of all penalties contained in the Election Code. The State Board of Elections will report back to me prior to the next General Assembly session with recommendations for making all penalties fair, appropriate, and consistent throughout the Election Code.

For the above stated reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 461.

Very truly yours,
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Senate Bill No. 461

AN ACT concerning

Voters' Rights Protection Act - Clarification

FOR the purpose of clarifying the circumstances under which and locations in which a person is prohibited from attiring or equipping an individual, or permitting an individual to be attired or equipped, in a certain manner in connection with an election; providing for a certain penalty; and generally relating to clarifying a certain provision of the Voters' Rights Protection Act.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Election Law

Section 16-903

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2003 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

(As enacted by Chapter 4 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2006)

BY adding to

Article - Election Law

Section 16-1003

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2003 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Election Law