

**CHAPTER 200****(House Bill 196)**

AN ACT concerning

**Elections - Absentee Voting**

FOR the purpose of altering the circumstances ~~that are required to exist for a voter to qualify~~ under which a registered voter qualifies for voting by absentee ballot; and generally relating to voting by absentee ballot.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 33 - Election Code

Section 9-304, ~~9-305, and 10-102~~

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

**Article 33 - Election Code**

9-304.

(a) A registered voter may vote by absentee ballot at an election if the voter:

(1) **[Will]** MAY be absent on election day from the county in which the voter is registered;

(2) Because of accident, illness, or physical disability, will be unable to go to the polling place on election day;

(3) Because of confinement in or restriction to an institution, will be prevented from going to the polling place on election day;

(4) Because of a death or serious illness in the voter's immediate family, will be unable to go to the polling place on election day;

(5) Is a full-time student at an institution of higher education located outside the voter's precinct but within the county of registration, and academic requirements prevent the voter from going to the polling place on election day; or