

even if the vote count is "one", is the appropriate candidate to compete for the position in the general election. I believe that codifying this mechanism for filling vacancies of elected officials sets an inappropriate precedent for the public election process.

While I am sympathetic to the problem that this bill seeks to address, I believe that other alternatives should be explored. In many elections across the State, an extremely qualified and respected candidate emerges prior to the filing deadline. Sometimes such a candidate is an incumbent, or a new candidate, that has the confidence of his or her political party and constituents. The presence of such a candidate in a race will often discourage other qualified potential candidates from pursuing the office. The provisions of this bill could lead to the filling of an office with a candidate who is not the best qualified, or the candidate who the voters would have preferred under different circumstances, simply because a well-qualified and respected candidate was challenged by a limited pool of candidates in a primary election.

For the above reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 301.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Senate Bill No. 301

AN ACT concerning

Allegany County - Board of Education - Elections

FOR the purpose of providing a procedure for filling a vacancy if a nominee for membership on the Allegany Board of Education dies, declines the nomination, or becomes disqualified after the primary election but before the general election; altering certain cross-references; and generally relating to the election of members of the Allegany County Board of Education.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article - Education
Section 3-201
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

Article - Education

3-201.

(a) (1) In this subtitle, "elected member" means a voting member elected under subsection (d) or ~~(e)~~ (F) of this section or a member appointed to an elected position on the County Board under subsection ~~(e)(3)~~ (F)(3) of this section.