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Requested: _____
Committee: _____

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By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Prince George's County – Notice of Elections – Mailing of Specimen Ballots

PG 403–27

FOR the purpose of requiring the Prince George's County Board of Elections to provide notice of a primary election by mailing a specimen ballot to certain voters in the county at least a certain number of weeks before the first day of any early voting period before the primary election; requiring that the specimen ballots for a general election in Prince George's County be mailed at least a certain number of weeks before the first day of any early voting period before the general election; and generally relating to notice of elections in Prince George's County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Election Law
Section 8–102
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2026 Supplement)

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

Article – Election Law

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
[Brackets**]** indicate matter deleted from existing law.

8–102.

(a) Except as required under subsection (d) of this section, a local board shall provide notice of each election in its county to the registered voters of the county by either:

(1) specimen ballot mailed at least 1 week before the first day of any early voting period before the election; or

(2) publication or dissemination by mass communication during the calendar week preceding the election.

(b) The notice shall include:

(1) the time and place of the election; and

(2) the offices, candidate names, and questions contained on the ballot.

(c) (1) If a local board provides notice by mailing specimen ballots, a specimen ballot shall be mailed to all registered voters in the county who are eligible to vote in the election.

(2) The specimen ballot shall be a facsimile of the ballot that the voter is entitled to vote in the election.

(d) (1) In Prince George's County **[**for the general election**]**, the Board shall:

(i) FOR A PRIMARY ELECTION, PROVIDE NOTICE BY MAILING A SPECIMEN BALLOT TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE COUNTY WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT LEAST 2 WEEKS BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF ANY EARLY VOTING PERIOD BEFORE THE PRIMARY ELECTION; AND

(II) FOR A GENERAL ELECTION:

1. provide notice by mailing specimen ballots **AT LEAST 2 WEEKS BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF ANY EARLY VOTING PERIOD BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION**; and

[(ii)**]** **2.** mail a specimen ballot to the household of each registered voter in the county.

(2) The costs for mailing specimen ballots in Prince George's County shall be included in the county's annual budget appropriation to the local board.

(e) (1) Unless a local board mails a specimen ballot to its registered voters in accordance with subsection (c) or (d) of this section, the local board shall give notice of the election by newspaper publication or other means of mass communication.

(2) The notice of election under this subsection shall be arranged, if practicable, in the same order and form as the ballot.

(3) (i) If newspaper publication is used in a county, the notice shall be advertised in at least two newspapers of general circulation that are published in the county.

(ii) In a county in which only one newspaper is published, the notice shall be published in that newspaper.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2027.