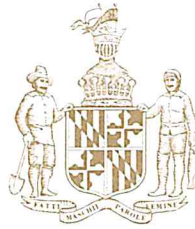


CHRIS WEST  
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Baltimore County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Vice Chair, Baltimore County  
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March 5, 2020

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
2 West Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

**RE: SB 372 – Election Law – Correctional Facilities – Voter Registration and Voting**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to introduce Senate Bill 372 which, as amended, will improve accessibility to voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications for eligible incarcerated voters. There should be a significant amendment in your packets suggested by the State Board of Elections that adds some well-conceived modifications to the original bill.

Under current Maryland Law individuals who are detained in a correctional facility awaiting trial or incarcerated solely for a misdemeanor offense are eligible to vote. But currently, there is no requirement that the State Board of Elections provide them with voting materials.

To ensure fair and equal access to voting materials, this legislation would mandate that the State Board of Elections and the Department of Public Safety provide access to voter registration as well as absentee ballots for those who are eligible. Additionally, upon their release, individuals who were incarcerated will be provided with a voter registration application and information about their right to vote.

Regardless of incarceration, eligible voters deserve the same access and knowledge of ballot materials as the rest of the State. We are not changing who can vote with this legislation, but merely working to provide the accessibility needed for those who already can vote and may not know of their right or the process in which they execute their civic duty.

I ask the committee for a favorable report.

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 372

On page 2 line 23 after "Vote", insert; And (4) ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMIT THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN A STATE ELECTION CURRENTLY DETAINED IN A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY TO THE STATE BOARD IN A MANNER AND FORMAT SPECIFIED JOINTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

Page 3 Line 4 delete (b) and replace with THE STATE BOARD SHALL PROVIDE TO THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS FROM THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: (1) A VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION, AND (2) AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION.

page 3 lines 7-8- Delete from "the" to "to" and replace with : TO EVERY ELIGIBLE VOTER, THE STATE BOARD SHALL:

Page 3 Line 18 Insert after Provide - "INFORMATION"

Page 3 Lines 16-17- Delete (3)

Page 3 Line 20 after "VOTERS" insert ; AND (5) PROVIDE A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER THAT AN ELIGIBLE VOTERS MAY CALL TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT VOTER REGISTRATION, ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS AND VOTING IN THE STATE.

On Page 4 Lines 1-4 - Delete (2)