

# GET MONEY OUT

# Maryland

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**STATEMENT TO THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
HOUSE BILL 1314 – ELECTION LAW - VOTING SYSTEMS  
ACCESSIBILITY FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES  
SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT  
March 3, 2020**

Get Money Out (GMOM) is an all-volunteer organization that was established just over seven years ago. We now have engaged more than 8,500 citizen supporters. We work in Maryland toward the goals that all citizens should have equal access to the ballot and an equal say in governance.

We support the intent of this bill to allow certain disabled voters to vote in a manner that is indistinguishable from other voters. We believe, however, that the current ballot-marking devices that produce a bar code create a serious risk of hacking that could subvert voters' intent and that is not auditable. The intent of the bill can be accomplished in a stepwise fashion if the General Assembly adopts the amendments and the State takes the steps advocated by Save Our Votes.

An article last year in *Salon* summarized the situation:

- *Most ballot marking devices (BMDs) that are intended for use as a primary voting system put [barcodes](#) on the paper printouts, which purport to encapsulate the voters' selections. Although voters can't read barcodes, the barcodes are the only portion of the printout counted as their vote.*
- *The barcodes can be maliciously programmed to instruct the scanners to [flip votes](#).<sup>i</sup>*

Please adopt the recommended amendments and issue a favorable report on HB 1314.

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<sup>i</sup> [https://www.salon.com/2019/03/28/new-hybrid-voting-system-can-change-paper-ballot-after-its-been-cast\\_partner/](https://www.salon.com/2019/03/28/new-hybrid-voting-system-can-change-paper-ballot-after-its-been-cast_partner/)