

Testimony Against SB0605

Please vote against SB0605.

This is a complicated 16-page bill describing the process for automatic voter registration via the MVA or the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. Section 3-203.1 (G)(3)(I) and (2) on page 10 states, that an exchange applicant can register to vote if, "the applicant's attestation of citizenship IS NOT RELIABLY VERIFIED through an electronic database match; and the applicant HAS NOT ATTESTED that the applicant IS NOT A United States Citizen.

Additionally, if the Exchange customer provides information such as name or address that differs from the alleged match on the voter rolls, the Exchange system will issue a notice of update via nonforwardable mail to the address of the customer. If the customer does nothing with the notice within 21 days after the notice was issued, the voting record will be updated. A negative assurance process such as this is can lead to errors in the voting rolls. Any changes to name and address should be positively confirmed!!!

A notice should also be sent to the name and address of the current voter in addition to the Exchange customer to confirm that they did request the name or address change (pages 10-11). The MVA process is different and could be flawed as well. Depending on situations, an inactive voter can be changed to an active voter based on a negative assurance process. It is difficult to follow.

Please vote against HB0471.

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