



HB 1022
Election Law – Incarcerated Individuals – Voting Eligibility Access
(Voting Rights for All Act)

MCAA Position: **OPPOSE**

TO: Judiciary & Ways and Means
Committee

DATE: March 5, 2024

FROM: Ryan Ross, President
Lamonte Cooke, Legislative Committee
Mary Ann Thompson, Legislative Committee

The Maryland Correctional Administrator’s Association (MCAA), an organization comprised of our statewide jail wardens and administrators for promoting and improving best correctional practices, appreciates the opportunity to provide information regarding House Bill 1022.

Local Detention Centers in the State of Maryland operate according to the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards (MCCS), codified in Title 12 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Subtitle 14 Commission on Correctional Standards

The proposed legislation, while heavily focusing on the duties and responsibilities of the Election Board, affects local detention centers. The bill for all intents and purposes is redundant as the local detention centers already work together with the local election boards, signage is posted, and voter registration forms and absentee ballot requests distributed and collected in accordance with deadlines. The processes are in place to ensure the incarcerated individuals who qualify vote in the Primary and General Elections.

The proposed House Bill does not consider the design of local detention centers. Local detention centers are not designed as State Prisons wherein there is an opportunity to reach ballot boxes. It should be further clarified that local detention centers are independently run and funded by each county and are not under the auspices of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

Even before the measures adopted in the past few years, local detention centers have complied with election law. In the past, the State of Maryland Office of the Attorney General, in 2008 and 2018, sent correspondence to the local detention centers to remind them of the importance of eligible incarcerated individuals voting as is their constitutional guarantee.

The Maryland Correctional Administrators Association strongly opposes this bill and respectfully requests this committee for an unfavorable report on House Bill 1022.