



TESTIMONY FOR HB0627

Election Law -Automatic Voter Registration – State Correctional Facilities

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Wilkins

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0627 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill, if enacted, would require the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to implement an automated voter registration system by January 1, 2025. This would allow for the automatic enrollment of individuals so they would be able to vote once they were released.

Our members believe that in a representative democracy, everyone's voice should be heard. Those who have served time for their offences should be able to participate in our voting process.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.