

JHEANELLE WILKINS
Legislative District 20
Montgomery County

Vice Chair, Ways and Means
Committee

Rules and Executive Nominations
Committee

Chair

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 131
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3493 · 301-858-3493
800-492-7122 Ext. 3493
Fax 410-841-3445 · 301-858-3445
Jheanelle.Wilkins@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 7, 2024

**House Bill 1022 – Election Law – Incarcerated Individuals – Voting Eligibility and Access
(Voting Rights for All Act)**

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce **House Bill 1022 – Election Law – Incarcerated Individuals – Voting Eligibility and Access (Voting Rights for All Act)**, which would ensure the right to vote for everyone in Maryland, regardless of criminal convictions.

This bill expands voting rights throughout the State of Maryland and repeals incarceration status as a barrier to voting. HB 1022 requires correctional facilities across the State of Maryland to display signs in intake and release centers that display information about voting and the voter registration process. Correctional facilities are also required to provide ballot drop boxes, establish a point of contact between the State Board of Elections and the correctional facility, collect ballots on a scheduled basis, and disperse voter eligibility information before the registration deadline.

House Bill 1022 also addresses the ongoing issue of voting barriers for Black citizens of Maryland, and they are the most adversely affected by mass incarceration. Currently, every 787 adults per 100,000 residents who are currently incarcerated are Black/African American.

As the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election nears, the importance of voting rights grows every day. To reflect our goals of being a true representative democracy, it is vital that all individuals in the State of Maryland are granted the right to vote, regardless of incarceration status.

House Bill 1022 will give more Marylanders the right to participate in the democratic process. I urge the committee to give a **favorable report** for **House Bill 1022- Election Law – Incarcerated Individuals – Voting Eligibility and Access (Voting Rights for All Act)**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jheanelle Wilkins".

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins