



People on the Go of Maryland

House Bill 192

Election Law-Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof Of Identity

Requiring an election judge to establish a voter's identity by requiring the voter to present a valid government-issued photo identification or a valid nongovernment-issued photo identification, and a current bill, statement or check that states the voter's name and address as proof of identity; requiring a voter to vote a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide certain proof of identity; and prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification.

Position: Opposed

January 31, 2024

Sponsored by Delegate R. Long

Assigned to House Ways and Means

Written by Mat Rice

Executive Director - People On the Go of Maryland

Honorable Chairperson, and distinguished members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

People on the Go of Maryland (People On the Go) is a statewide self-advocacy organization ran for and by those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD).

People On the Go provides this written testimony and respectful opposition to House Bill 192 (HB 192).

This bill would require that a voter provide in-person proof of identity through the submission of a valid form of identification, as stated above.

This requirement would present barriers for many marginalized groups, including people of color and individuals with disabilities. Many individuals with disabilities live with their families, and do not have an identification card, or a utility bill, bank statement, or personal check, in their name. Many people who live in residential settings face similar issues.

Additionally, the documentation requirements to obtain a valid form of identification pose significant hardships to individuals with disabilities, and their families or others who may support them. These hardships and barriers include:

- Lack of transportation to a nearby Motor Vehicle Administration office;
- Lack of transportation to a medical professional who can provide the disabled person with proper documentation necessary to obtain a photo ID;
- Cost.

Until the State of Maryland can ensure that everyone has access to identification, People On the Go holds the belief that this is not an appropriate measure at this time. It may pose a significant barrier to eligible voters in being able to cast their vote.

Should the sponsor and or the assembly wish to pursue this, we would recommend that a fiscal impact study be done, on what it would take to ensure access to proper identification, for every eligible voter.

Therefore, People on the Go strongly urges an unfavorable report for HB 192.
Thank you for your consideration.

Should you have any questions. Please contact Mat Rice.

Thank you,

Mat Rice, Executive Director

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