

JHEANELLE WILKINS
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Vice Chair, Ways and Means
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Committee

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 13, 2024

House Bill 627 - Election Law - Automatic Voter Registration - State Correctional Facilities

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 627 - Election Law - Automatic Voter Registration - State Correctional Facilities**, which will expand the agencies covered under the current Automatic Voter Registration program to include DPSCS correctional facilities.

This legislation seeks to allow eligible returning citizens to register to vote during their outtake process. Specifically, this bill would allow these individuals to register electronically and automatically. Currently, eligible returning citizens have to go through a waiting period between their release and when they visit the MVA; where they are handed a voter registration form to get registered. House Bill 627 would eliminate this waiting period and allow more eligible returning citizens to register to vote as soon as they leave their correctional facility.

Eligible returning citizens should not face barriers when registering to vote upon their release. With House Bill 627, eligible returning citizens would be provided with the opportunity to register on designated tablets during their outtake process and eliminate the waiting period.

House Bill 627 would bridge the voter registration gap for eligible returning citizens. I urge the committee to give a **favorable report** for **House Bill 627 - Election Law - Automatic Voter Registration - State Correctional Facilities**.

Sincerely,

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

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins