

Honorable Delegates

Please vote for SB0495.

I believe this bill will help many of us understand whether we want to vote for or against an issue because the wording will now be more understandable.

Per Section 6-103, If one is circulating a petition and one wants to include a summary of the issue or the proposal on the form, the summary shall be "written in plain language reasonably calculated to be understood by an individual who has attained not higher than a grade 6 level of reading comprehensive".

The preparer of the summary " ... may use any generally accepted guidelines regarding compliance with the federal Plain Writing Act of 2010 in determining whether the [summary] is in compliance ...". The preparer of the petition is still required to have a complete copy of the proposal for those asked to sign if a summary is placed on the petition form.

In section 7-103, The State Board must comply with the Plain Language law when summarizing a question to be placed on the ballot. Those determining whether the summary complies with the Plain Language law may use any generally accepted guidelines developed for that purpose.

As a retired federal employee who was tasked to follow plain language requirements, I found these standards helped the employees in communicating with our peers/management and more importantly, helped create documents that the public would find easier to understand.

Please vote for SB0495.

Alan Lang, District 31  
242 Armstrong Lane  
Pasadena, MD 21122  
410.336.9745  
[Alanlang1@verizon.net](mailto:Alanlang1@verizon.net)