

HB0202 Comments by Michael Fletcher, Derwood, MD FAVORABLE w/AMENDMENT

[The proposed bill should be updated to refer to mail-in rather than absentee ballots and should be amended to include under the offenses of Maryland Election Law Section 16-201 voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification.]

The passage of HB0202 would go a long way towards healing divisions in Maryland's electorate by assuring that only eligible voters are permitted to vote a mail-in ballot.

For many years, Marylanders and other citizens of the USA have been debating the accuracy of our voting systems. Many feel that the voting systems are functioning as intended while others believe that the systems make it too easy for nefarious actors to introduce fraudulent votes.

The widespread use of mail-in voting introduces the potential for nefarious actors to vote using fictitious identities without the face-to-face interaction that occurs at a polling place. By providing safeguards to help ensure that the person who submits a mail-in ballot is actually the person on the registration list, HB0202 would enhance the integrity of the voting system in Maryland; it should be approved.