

HB0142 Comments by Michael Fletcher, Derwood, MD FAVORABLE w/AMENDMENT

[HB0142 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 HB0142 would go a long way towards healing divisions in Maryland's electorate by assuring that someone who attempts to vote is in fact the same person listed on the registration list.

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. By ensuring that the person who tries to vote is actually eligible to vote, HB0142 would enhance the accuracy and integrity of the voting system in Maryland.

This bill would not prevent an individual from casting a ballot if the identification process could not verify the person's identity because of a clerical or administrative error, since, in that case, the individual may vote a provisional ballot.

Unfortunately, HB0142 would not prevent nefarious actors from introducing fraudulent votes via mail-in voting. Nevertheless, it would improve the integrity of the system at polling places during early voting and on election day. It should be enacted.