

# RE: HB0142 Election Law - Polling Places - Establishing Voter Identity (Voter Privacy Act of 2024

Chairman, Atterbury and Members of the Ways and Means Committee

Requiring a voter to present a photo ID preserves the integrity of every voter's vote and protects the integrity of the election itself.

> Currently, anyone who knows a registered voter's name, address, and month/day of birth can walk-in and vote as that person on a regular ballot. No one is verifying signatures on the VACs (Voter Authority Cards). When an individual votes on a regular ballot, it is permanent. There is no way to remove this vote once it has been cast.

> By requiring a voter to present photo ID, the integrity of the election is also preserved. At least 35 other states require some form of ID or a photo ID in order to vote a regular ballot. Maryland is among 15 states that require no ID to vote.

## When Valid IDs Are REQUIRED:

- Driving
- Boarding an Airplane
- Purchasing a Car
- Getting a Car Registration
- Renting a Car / Boat / Jet Ski / etc.
- Buying Insurance
- Buying Train Tickets
- Obtaining a Passport
- Picking up mail from FedEx, UPS, Post Office, etc.
- Renting Tools / Furniture / Equipment
- Visiting a Doctor's Office / Hospital
- Getting Outpatient Testing
- Donating Blood
- Getting a Prescription
- Buying Certain OTC Cold Medications, and products like nail polish remover
- Applying for a Job
- Applying to School
- Applying for a Professional License
- Getting Married
- Check Out a Book from the Library
- Joining the Military
- Adopting a Child
- Transacting with a Bank
- Sending a Wire Transfer
- Applying for Online Banking
- Applying for Store Credit
- Establishing a Utilities Account (Water / Light / Electric / Cable / Gas / etc.)
- Cashing a Check
- Getting a Credit Card
- Opening a Retirement Account
- Applying for a Mortgage
- Buying a House
- Applying for Apartment Rentals
- Renting a Hotel Room
- Buying a Cell Phone
- Going to Court
- Entering Federal Buildings
- Getting a Business License
- Getting a State ID
- Cashing In a Large Lottery Ticket Win
- Obtaining Medicare / Medicaid
- Applying for Food Stamps
- Applying for Welfare
- Applying for Unemployment
- Using Social Security Services
- Applying for Section 8 Housing
- Applying for a H-1B Visa, or Green Card
- Holding a Rally or Protest
- Buying a Firearm
- Adopting a Pet
- Applying for a Hunting License
- Applying for a Fishing License
- Joining a Gym
- Using Pawn Shops
- Buying Annual Tickets to Amusement Parks
- Entering Night Clubs
- Volunteering at Non-Profit Organizations
- Voting in a Union Election
- Buying Cigarettes
- Buying Liquor
- Visiting a Casino
- Buying an "M"-Rated Video Game
- Going to Jail
- Participating in Outdoor Activities Like Sky diving, Bungee Jumping, etc
- Participating in Political Events

## When Valid IDs Are NOT Required:

Voting

>The above chart lists over 60 instances where a valid Identification Card is required, yet not for Voting.

As an Election Judge for several election cycles I can affirm that voters actually want to show their ID and most certainly let us know that they think is it ridiculous that to show an ID to vote is NOT required in Maryland.

Requiring a voter ID ensures that voters' rights are protected. Disenfranchisement of voters' rights only fosters distrust of our election system and reduces voter confidence.

>No one is blocked by requiring an ID as they are easy and free to obtain through the Motor Vehicles Administration.

> Many employees already have a photo ID as even all elected officials and state and federal employees, as well as anyone who drives any type of motor vehicle do.

A 2022 Gallop Poll showed that 80% of those surveyed supported voter ID laws that required proof of identity in order to vote. The breakdown by party is overwhelming favorable with 97% of Republicans, 85% of Independents, and 53% of Democrats favoring voter ID.

Maryland needs to join with the majority of states that require a voter ID to vote.

Therefore, I respectfully request a Favorable Report for HB0142 because this bill is necessary to preserve, protect, and respect the rights of all registered voters.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne White  
1913 Martins Cove Court  
Annapolis, Maryland