

February 13, 2024

**Testimony on HB 471
Election Law – Postelection Procedures
Ways & Means**

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland is in support of HB 471, which would alter the responsibilities of the State Board of Elections and the Board of State Canvassers post-election and help ensure that their important work of certifying our election results is able to be completed in a secure and timely manner.

This legislation makes several small changes to post-election procedures that will help ensure that accurate determinations are made around which candidates and questions were approved by voters, and that any inaccuracies – as determined by the State Board by clear and convincing evidence – are dealt with in a streamlined and timely manner. HB 471 also authorizes board members to appoint a designee should they be unable to participate in the convening for whatever reason will ensure that our election results are certified on schedule.

Ensuring that our election results can be finalized and certified in a timely manner will help assuage voter concerns about election security as we enter another critical cycle at the ballot box. For these reasons, we request a favorable report.