

HB0153 (Unfavorable)

Honorable Senators

I do not believe that the minimum age to register to vote should be reduced from 16 to 15 years and 9 months. Reducing the age just becomes an extra incentive to find local and school board elections where they could vote should the proposed Constitutional Amendment (HB0052) pass and allow those under 18 to vote.

Additionally, as stated by the Maryland Association of Elected Officials (MAEO) in its testimony in January, there are conversion costs if this bill should pass. MAEO informed the Delegates:

HB 153 would require sending additional correspondence to underage voters, informing them of when they will be eligible to vote in the next primary election. This change would bring added costs and administrative work, as election officials would need to identify the affected voters and send them the necessary notifications. MDVOTERS, Maryland's statewide voter registration system, would also require significant updates or software changes to accommodate these changes.

Additionally, Voter Notification Cards would need to be redesigned to include the specific date when these voters become eligible to vote

Please enter an Unfavorable report for HB0153.

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