



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
HB 153: Election Law - Voter Registration - Age and Notification to Minors
April 2, 2025

Letter of Information

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need.

Voting is a fundamental right that Maryland's citizens with developmental disabilities want and need to access. Researchers have found that more accessible voting options available in the 2020 election, 62% of people with disabilities voted (a six-point increase over 2016)¹. Additional methods to increase accessibility may allow even more people with disabilities to vote. This is why the Council advocates for policies and practices that makes voting more accessible and inclusive for all Marylanders.

We understand the intention of this bill aligns with our values of making elections more accessible for all. If HB153 is passed, the State Board of Election should ensure that the communication about voting eligibility is not just made available to individuals 15 years and 9 months old, but that the communication is also fully accessible. The best way to do this is by continuing to work with disability advocates in the community.

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¹ https://smlr.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/Documents/Centers/Program_Disability_Research/FactSheet_Disability_Voter_Turnout_2020.pdf