

2025 SB0257 Testimony For 2025-02-05.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: FAV

SB0257 – Favorable

Honorable Senators

I support:

- altering the time before an election when a certain notice is required to be sent to each voter who is on the permanent absentee ballot list;
- repealing a requirement that the notice be sent to each voter who is on the permanent absentee ballot list as of a certain date; and
- altering the action the State Board of Elections is required to take if the State Board is unable to contact a voter who is on the permanent absentee ballot list using the method of communication chosen by the voter.

Please enter a Favorable report for SB0257.

Alan Lang
45 Marys Mount Road
Harwood, Maryland 20776
410-336-9745
Alanlang1@verizon.net

Legislative District 30B

February 5, 2025

SBE Testimony SB257:HB199.pdf

Uploaded by: Jared DeMarinis

Position: FAV



SB257 - Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request - Departmental)

Election Law - Notice to Permanent Absentee Voters

Purpose:

1. Clarifies the time period when to send a notice to a voter on the permanent mail-in ballot list.
2. Allows more methods to contact a voter if the written notice is returned.

Comments:

The State Board of Elections supports the legislation. The proposed bill (1) clarifies the time period to send a written notice to a voter on the permanent mail-in ballot list and (2) allows alternate methods to contact a voter if the first notice is returned.

Currently, the law requires SBE to send notices out to Permanent Absentee voters, not less than 75 days before ballots are sent out, using a list of those voters as of 90 days before the upcoming election.

The existing language is unclear. For example: if the 2026 Primary is held on 6/30/26, ballots will begin being sent out 5/16/26 (per Federal law), which means the notices have to go out on 3/2/26 (75 days before ballots go out) using a list as of 4/1/26 (90 days before election)

This bill clarifies the notification timelines while still adhering to the intent of the original bill.

Thank you and we look forward to your favorable passage of this bill.

Contacts:

Jared DeMarinis, State Administrator of Elections
410-269-2853 or jared.demarinis@maryland.gov

Jennifer McLaughlin, Legislative Liaison and Director of Mail-In Voting
410-271-6939 or jennifer.mclaughlin@maryland.gov

Final - SB257 - 2025.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: John Michael Gudger

Position: FAV



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

February 5, 2025

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB257 - Support

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) is the professional membership organization representing local election officials and Election Boards across all 24 jurisdictions in the state. Our members are dedicated to ensuring the smooth and effective administration of elections, and we are deeply committed to making Maryland elections accessible, secure, and fair.

MAEO supports Senate Bill 257, which improves the process by which the State Board of Elections (SBE) communicates with voters on the permanent mail-in ballot list (previously known as the absentee ballot list.)

SB 257 enhances the accuracy and efficiency of Maryland's mail-in ballot program by ensuring voters on the permanent absentee list are aware of their status. The adjusted timeline for sending required notices and the use of alternative contact methods if initial outreach is unsuccessful are also welcome improvements. These changes will help reduce voter confusion and ensure voters remain informed about their absentee ballot status without creating additional burdens for local election officials. We believe this bill could reduce the number of provisional ballots cast by voters who receive a mail-in ballot but still insist on voting in person.

SB 257 supports MAEO's ongoing goal of improving election administration while minimizing unnecessary workload on local boards of elections.

We respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 257.