



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

January 21, 2025

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
Maryland House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

HB199 - Support

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, 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 House Bill 199, 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.)

HB 199 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.

HB 199 supports MAEO's ongoing goal of improving election administration while minimizing unnecessary workload on local boards of elections. For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 199.

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