



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

HB153 - Information

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 wishes to provide information on House Bill 153, which lowers the age at which an individual may register to vote from 16 years old to 15 years and 9 months old.

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.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this information in your deliberations on House Bill 153.