



Empowering People to Lead Systemic Change

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**HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**  
**February 4, 2025**  
**House Bill 426: Election Law – Postelection Tabulation Audits –**  
**Risk-Limiting Audits**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM, formerly Maryland Disability Law Center) is the Protection & Advocacy agency of Maryland, federally mandated to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities. DRM works to increase opportunities for Marylanders with disabilities to be part of their communities through voting by advocating for equal and equitable access to the ballot. DRM submits this testimony in support of House Bill 426.

DRM supports House Bill 426, which requires the State Board of Elections to conduct a risk-limiting audit after each statewide election, as well as authorizing risk-limiting audits for special and statewide elections. This bill also authorizes, but does not require, automated software audits after elections. As proposed in the bill, risk-limiting audits will follow each statewide election, and will be required for one statewide contest and at least one local contest in each county. The bill also requires that the State Board of Elections post information about the audit's process and results within 10 days of completion.

Risk-limiting audits play a crucial role in ensuring that every Marylander's vote is accurately counted. Maryland offers multiple voting options—early voting centers, election day polling places, paper ballots, ballot-marking devices, and mail-in voting—all of which help provide access for voters with disabilities. By implementing risk-limiting audits, Maryland can more efficiently verify that all ballots, regardless of how they were cast, are counted correctly. Additionally, these audits enhance transparency and accountability by requiring the public release of both the audit methods and results, reinforcing trust in the electoral process.

HB 426 is an important bill that will efficiently verify election results, benefiting all Marylanders while empowering the public to understand the processes that ensure their votes are accurately counted. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 426. Please don't hesitate to contact me at [GillianJ@DisabilityRightsMD.org](mailto:GillianJ@DisabilityRightsMD.org) or by phone at 443-692-2498.

Respectfully Submitted,

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